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## U.S., Canadian officials say, Iran downed Ukrainian jetliner

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Evidence indicates it is "highly likely" that an Iranian anti-aircraft missile downed a Ukrainian jetliner near Tehran late Tuesday, U.S. and Canadian officials said

Thursday. They said the strike, which killed all 176 people on board, could well have been a mistake amid intentional airstrikes and high tensions throughout the region.

Continued on Next Page



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau holds a news conference in Ottawa on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020. Associated Press



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**Continued from Front**

The crash came just a few hours after Iran launched a ballistic attack against Iraqi military bases housing U.S. troops amid a confrontation with Washington over the U.S. drone strike that killed an Iranian Revolutionary Guard general. Four U.S. officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence, said they had no certain knowledge of Iranian intent and the airliner could have been mistaken for a threat.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, whose country lost at least 63 citizens in the downing, said in a Thursday press conference in Toronto: "We have intelligence from multiple sources including our allies and our own intelligence. The evidence indicates that the plane was shot down by an Iranian surface-to-air missile." Earlier Thursday, President Donald Trump suggested he believed Iran was responsible for the shoot-down but wouldn't directly blame the Iranians. He dismissed Iran's initial claim that it was a mechanical issue.

"Somebody could have



**In this handout photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lays flowers at a memorial of the flight crew members of the Ukrainian 737-800 plane that crashed on the outskirts of Tehran, at Borispil international airport outside in Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.**

made a mistake on the other side." Trump said, noting the plane was flying in a "pretty rough neighborhood."

"Some people say it was mechanical," Trump added. "I personally don't think that's even a question."

The U.S. officials wouldn't say what intelligence they had that pointed to an Iranian missile. But they ac-

knowledged the existence of satellites and other sensors in the region, as well as the likelihood of communication interceptions and other similar intelligence.

Two additional U.S. officials said the intelligence pointing to likely Iranian responsibility became clearer overnight into Thursday.

It was not immediately clear how the U.S. and its allies would react to the downing of the airliner. At least 63 Canadians and 11 Ukrainians were among the dead.

Despite efforts by Washington and Tehran to step back from the brink of possible war, the region remained on edge after the killing of the Iranian general and Iran's retaliatory missile strikes. U.S. troops were on high-alert.

The latest assessment comes just a day after Defense Secretary Mark Esper and Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said they hadn't had a chance to review the intelligence on the incident. Both spent much of the day at the White House and on Capitol Hill briefing the administration on the killing of Soleimani and the resulting attacks by Iran.

A preliminary Iranian investigative report released Thursday said that the airliner pilots never made a radio call for help and that the aircraft was try-

ing to turn back for the airport when the burning plane went down. Ukraine, meanwhile, said it considered a missile strike as one of several possible theories for the crash, despite Iran's early denials.

The Iranian report suggests that a sudden emergency struck the Boeing 737 operated by Ukrainian International Airlines late Tuesday, when it crashed, just minutes after taking off from Imam Khomeini International Airport in Tehran.

Investigators from Iran's Civil Aviation Organization offered no immediate explanation for the disaster, however. Iranian officials initially blamed a technical malfunction for the crash, something backed by Ukrainian officials before they said they wouldn't speculate amid an ongoing investigation.

Before the U.S. assessment, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency quoted Hasan Rezaeifa, the head of the civil aviation accident investigation commission, claiming that "the topics of rocket, missile or anti-aircraft system is ruled out." The Ukrainian International Airlines took off at 6:12 a.m. Wednesday, Tehran time, after nearly an hour's delay at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Airport, the main airport for travelers in Iran. It gained altitude heading west, reaching nearly 8,000 feet, according to both the

report and flight-tracking data.

Then something went wrong, though "no radio messages were received from the pilot regarding unusual situations," the report said. In emergencies, pilots reach out to air-traffic controllers to warn them and to clear the runway for their arrival, though their first priority is to keep the aircraft flying.

Eyewitnesses, including the crew of another flight passing above, described seeing the plane engulfed in flames before crashing at 6:18 a.m., the report said. The crash caused a massive explosion when the plane hit the ground, likely because the aircraft had been fully loaded with fuel for the flight to Kyiv, Ukraine. The report also confirmed that both of the "black boxes" that contain data and cockpit communications from the plane had been recovered, though they sustained damage and some parts of their memory was lost.

Hours before the plane crash the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration had issued an emergency flight restriction barring U.S. carriers and pilots from flying over areas of Iraqi, Iranian and some Persian Gulf airspace warning of the "potential for miscalculation or misidentification" for civilian aircraft due to heightened political and military tensions.

Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's Security Council, told Ukrainian media that officials had several working theories regarding the crash, including a missile strike.

"A strike by a missile, possibly a Tor missile system, is among the main (theories), as information has surfaced on the internet about elements of a missile being found near the site of the crash," Danilov said. He did not elaborate on where he saw the information on the internet.

Ukrainian investigators that arrived in Iran earlier on Thursday currently await permission from Iranian authorities to examine the crash site and look for missile fragments, Danilov said. The Tor is a Russian-made missile system. □

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# Advocates warn citizenship, digital divide may affect Census

By MIKE SCHNEIDER  
Associated Press

Leaders of advocacy groups warned lawmakers on Thursday that the fight over a failed citizenship question, the digital divide and the wording of questions on Hispanic origin and race may lead to the undercounting of some communities during the 2020 Census.

The leaders from ethnic advocacy groups and civil rights organizations also testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform that they worried the U.S. Census Bureau was falling behind in hiring workers and that its media campaign promoting the census wasn't going to be robust enough.

The Census Bureau says the hardest people to count are young children, racial and ethnic minorities, non-English speakers, immigrants living in the country illegally, the homeless and low-income people.

The once-a-decade head count will determine how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is allocated among the 50 states and how many congressional seats each gets. The count starts in tribal communities in northern Alaska in less than two weeks. Residents in the rest of the country can start participating starting in the middle of March.

"The 2020 Census is likely to be the largest and most difficult enumeration ever," said Vanita Gupta, CEO of

the Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights. "There are no do-overs. We need to get it right the first time."

The Census Bureau needs to start holding emergency job fairs and stop relying on an online system for hiring in order to fill as many as 500,000 temporary jobs, said Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League.

"It's time to ring the alarm bell," Morial said. "If they continue on the course they're going, they will not hire enough people and an undercount is pre-ordained."

The online hiring system has made it more difficult for some candidates to apply for jobs, said Kevin Allis, CEO of the National Congress of American Indians. Allis said, for instance, that not one Alaska Native has been hired as a "partnership specialist," a person whoworks with local groups to raise awareness about the census.

The bureau didn't respond to an email seeking comment on the hiring concerns.

The 2020 Census is the first decennial count in which respondents are being encouraged to fill out their questionnaire online, although they will still be allowed to respond by telephone or mail in the form if they wish.

A test run of the census in Rhode Island showed that Latino participants pre-



In this April 23, 2019 file photo, immigration activists rally outside the Supreme Court as the justices hear arguments over the Trump administration's plan to ask about citizenship on the 2020 census, in Washington.

Associated Press

ferred paper forms, said Arturo Vargas, CEO of the NALEO Education Fund.

The federal government also failed to act on a proposed change that would have combined questions on race and Hispanic origin in order to make it easier for Latinos who don't identify with the racial categories, Vargas said.

Advocates also said the bureau had been vague in offering details on mobile centers that will help people fill out their forms, and some raised concerns that prisoners still would be counted at their facilities instead of the communities they come from.

"We had the Census Bu-

reau on the brink of reversing this just before the 2016 election ... but the election impacted this," Morial said. "It's not fair. It's not appropriate to allow those counties that happen to house correctional facilities to get a disproportionate share of resources and political power because they just happen to be the place where incarcerated people are."

The bureau didn't respond to an email question about prisoners.

President Donald Trump had proposed adding a question to the 2020 census asking about U.S. citizenship. The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the effort

last summer, but the issue arose again during Thursday's hearing.

House Democrats and several of the hearing's witnesses said some immigrants and Hispanics may still be afraid to participate in the census this spring.

"The administration's anti-immigrant policies and its illegal effort to add a citizenship question have made an accurate count even harder to obtain by sowing fear and distrust in communities across the country," said U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a Democrat from New York who chairs the oversight committee. "But this appears to be the point." □

# ML King Day activities to emphasize voters and nonviolence

ATLANTA (AP) — As the nation prepares for the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday amid a "dire" election year, the Atlanta center named for him will offer nonviolence training, voter registration and visits from politicians, entertainers and sports figures, King's daughter said Thursday.

The impeachment of President Donald Trump and a tumultuous climate in the United States make this year's commemorative event all the more crucial, Bernice King told reporters.

"This is an election year. For many people this is a dire election year," she said. "And I say that on both sides of the equation. Both sides of the aisle."

"We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now," she added, echoing a phrase her father employed in landmark 1967 sermon. Voter registration will take place at the series of events, as well as a demonstration of the workings of new voting machines, in hopes of encouraging voting and reducing wait

times at voting sites.

The activities will be held at and around The King Center, from Jan. 10-20, in the neighborhood where the civil rights champion lived. Events include a two-day nonviolence workshop to educate and train others in the protest method that King employed, and a K-12 event focused on celebrating the differences in people.

The Atlanta events also include a "day of service" at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Jan. 18 in honor of King,

who was pastor of the church until he was assassinated in 1968.

Politicians, entertainers and sports figures are expected to attend various events, Bernice King said. Visitors to The King Center will also be able to take part in a new "digital footsteps journey," she said. It's an interactive display where visitors walk on a path connected to software that reveals the energy they generated with each step, and shows the various devices that energy could power. □



Bernice King, daughter of slain civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., speaks about a series of events to be held in and around The King Center, on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

# Trump proposes sweeping rollback of environmental oversight

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In a dramatic rollback of environmental oversight, President Donald Trump took action Thursday to clear the way and speed up development of a wide range of commercial projects by cutting back federal review of their impact on the environment.

"The United States can't compete and prosper if a bureaucratic system holds us back from building what we need," Trump said at the White House in announcing the proposed regulatory rollback, surrounded by Cabinet secretaries, industry leaders and workers in hard hats.

Trump's proposal calls for greatly narrowing the scope of the half-century-old National Environmental Policy Act, signed by Republican President Richard Nixon in 1970. It was one of the first of that era's fundamental environmental laws, along with the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act, that spelled out the country's principal protections.

That National Environmental Policy Act required fed-



**President Donald Trump delivers remarks on proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act, at the White House, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, in Washington.**

**Associated Press**

eral agencies to consider whether a project would harm the air, land, water or wildlife. It also gave the public, including people living in the neighborhood around a proposed dam, pipeline or other big project, the right of review and input. Congress said at the time that the nation was moving to "fulfill the respon-

sibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations."

Trump, who has targeted environmental rules in his drive to ease the way for business, said Thursday that enforcement of the law had slowed federal approval of projects. "America's most critical infrastruc-

ture projects have been tied up and bogged down by an outrageously slow and burdensome federal approval process," he said. "The builders are not happy. Nobody's happy." Environmental groups and Democratic lawmakers countered that the proposed rollback would gut major environmental protections and take away the public's right to know and comment on a project's potential harms.

Key among the changes proposed is one that would newly limit the requirement for federal environmental review to projects that have major federal funding.

The change would mean a range of predominantly privately funded and managed projects would not fall under the law's requirement for federal environmental study and for public review and comment.

Other changes including giving federal agencies no more than two years to evaluate any environmental impact of a project.

Mary Neumayr, head of the administration's Council on Environmental Quality, said the changes would not explicitly bar federal consideration of a project's impact on the nation's output of climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions. But environmentalists said a

change instructing federal employees to disregard cumulative and longer term effects would have the same effect, however.

The proposal is to be published in the Federal Register in coming days, followed by a 60-day period for public comment.

Although relatively little known outside of industry, government and environmental circles, the act sets out some rights that Americans now take for granted, said Stephen Schima, senior legislative counsel with the environmental advocacy group Earthjustice. "That public meeting you went to in your neighborhood about a highway?" Schima said. "That was because of NEPA."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi accused the administration of further sidelining any federal efforts to confront climate change. "These new guidelines undermine critical building requirements that ensure that our communities are able to withstand the growing threat posed by the climate crisis," she said.

Groups representing professional state and urban planners spoke out against the administration's proposal.

"Ignoring the future impact of climate change as part of the nation's core environmental review law will only increase costs of development and future disaster recovery on taxpayers and communities, while making us all more vulnerable to its already apparent effects," the American Planning Association and the Association of State Floodplain Managers said in a statement.

Trump said the changes would deliver "gleaming new infrastructure" to the United States and would "completely overhaul the dysfunctional bureaucratic system that has created these massive obstructions. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt told reporters that Trump would "deliver a home run ... by cutting red tape that has paralyzed decision making" on projects. □

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# California could be 1st state to sell own prescription drugs

By ADAM BEAM

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — California could become the first state with its own prescription drug label under a proposal that Gov. Gavin Newsom unveiled Thursday in a bid to lower prices by increasing competition in the generic market.

Newsom wants the nation's most populous state, home to nearly 40 million people, to contract with generic drug companies to make prescription medications on its behalf so it could then sell them to the public. "It's time to take the power out of the hands of greedy pharmaceutical companies," the Democratic governor tweeted.

Generic drug prices in California jumped 37.6% since 2017, the largest increase of any drug category, according to a recent report from the Office of State-wide Health Planning and

Development.

The proposal, for example, could help lower costs of a common drug that has steadily increased in price — insulin for diabetes patients. Three drug companies control most of the market for insulin.

"Consumers would directly benefit if California contracted on its own to manufacture much-needed generic medications like insulin — a drug that has been around for a century yet the price has gone up over tenfold in the last few decades," said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California. Jon Roth, CEO of the California Pharmacists Association, said the state might be surprised, however, at how much it ends up charging for its own generic drugs because of factors beyond its control, including raw material shortages and disruptions in the supply chain.

"There are other factors in the actual manufacturing that the state may not be able to escape," he said. Lawmakers must approve the plan before it can take effect. The idea is part of Newsom's forthcoming budget proposal, which he must present to the Legislature by Friday. While the governor's office did not say how much the proposal would cost, the state could have as much as a \$7 billion surplus this year, according to the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office. It's another step in Newsom's effort to overhaul California's prescription drug market. Last year, in one of his first acts in office,



In this July 23, 2019, file photo, Gov. Gavin Newsom talks to reporters at his Capitol office, in Sacramento, Calif. California could become the first state with its own prescription drug label. Associated Press

Newsom ordered the state to take over the Medicaid program's prescription drug benefits, which affects 13 million people. That order also directed state agencies to begin buying drugs in bulk and using their leverage to negotiate lower

prices. This year, Newsom's budget proposal would expand on that by creating a single market for drug pricing within the state. The governor's office says drug-makers would have to bid to sell their drugs in California at a uniform price. □

# Hanukkah stabbing suspect indicted on federal hate crimes

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A federal grand jury handed up hate crime charges Thursday against the man accused of stabbing five people with a machete during a Hanukkah celebration north of New York City.

The indictment charges Grafton Thomas with five counts each of attempting to kill victims based on their religion and obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs by attempting to kill with a dangerous weapon.

Thomas, 37, also faces state charges in the Dec. 28 attack inside the home of a rabbi in Monsey, N.Y. He is being held without bail on the federal charges.

A message was sent to Thomas' defense attorney, Michael Sussman, seeking comment. Sussman has said Thomas had a long

history of mental illness. He has requested Thomas undergo a psychiatric evaluation. Authorities have said they found a blood-stained 18-inch (45-centimeter) machete in Thomas' car, along with a knife smeared with dried blood and hair. They also said Thomas had handwritten journals containing anti-Semitic references and recently used his phone to look up information on Hitler and the location of synagogues.

The Hanukkah stabbings came amid a wave of anti-Semitic attacks targeting Orthodox Jewish communities in and around New York City.

One of the men wounded in the machete attack remains in serious condition. His family has said he may have permanent brain damage. □



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# U.S. courts rule for border walls both public and private

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Crews could start building a private border wall in South Texas within the coming days following a federal judge's ruling Thursday that lifted a restraining order against the project.

U.S. District Judge Randy Crane's order was the second federal ruling in two days in favor of border barriers. On Wednesday, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a lower court's stay that had prevented President Donald Trump's administration from diverting \$3.6 billion from military construction projects to fund 175 miles (280 kilometers) of border wall.

While the White House on Thursday celebrated the appeals court's ruling, saying it rightfully lifted an "illegitimate nationwide injunction," Crane's ruling actually went against the U.S. government's position.

Fisher Industries, a North Dakota-based construction firm, wants to install 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) of steel posts about 35 feet (10 meters) from the U.S. bank of the Rio Grande, the river that forms the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas. The company's president, Tommy Fisher, wants to spend \$40 million on the private border wall — originally promoted by a pro-Trump online fundraising group — to prove that his company can build barriers more ef-



In this Sept. 10, 2019 file photo, government contractors erect a section of Pentagon-funded border wall along the Colorado River in Yuma, Ariz.

Associated Press

fectively.

The U.S. government sued to stop Fisher on the grounds that building so close to the Rio Grande risked changing the flow of the river and potentially pushing floodwaters into Mexico, in violation of treaty obligations. The U.S. attorney's office argued the project could shift the river and the international boundary, which violated the president's authority "to conduct the foreign relations of the United States." Existing segments of fencing and the small sections that the government is currently building typically run along the Rio Grande le-

vee or through property a significant distance away from the river. The U.S. is currently working to seize private land to build more sections of wall in Texas.

Crane issued a restraining order in December, but lifted that order Thursday. He also declined to grant a restraining order at the request of the National Butterfly Center, a nonprofit located next to the South Texas construction site. The butterfly center and environmentalists warn building a border barrier so close to the river could worsen erosion and potentially damage other land.

Fisher Industries has sub-

mitted documents to the government that argue installing fence posts and clearing and grading the land will reduce flooding, though environmentalists disagree with that claim.

Speaking after the hearing Thursday, Fisher said his work crews were ready to start working Sunday and could install all of the steel posts in a week.

"We look forward to showing the whole entire world that you can have border protection where you need it," Fisher said.

The butterfly center had been in the path of a potential border wall for years until Congress effectively

exempted it and several other environmentally sensitive areas and cultural sites.

Marianna Trevino Wright, the center's executive director, said Thursday's ruling "makes you wonder when it's going to end and how many more of these proxies are there."

At the 5th Circuit, the 2-1 ruling announced Wednesday allows the government to move forward with 11 projects in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. The longest and most expensive by far would span 52 miles (83 kilometers) in Laredo, Texas, at an estimated cost of \$1.27 billion. The court noted that the Supreme Court in July had stayed a similar injunction, clearing the way for the Trump administration to tap billions of dollars in Pentagon funds to build sections of border wall.

"The Government is entitled to the same relief here," the three-judge panel wrote. President Donald Trump tweeted about the ruling and wrote that the "Entire Wall is under construction or getting ready to start!"

White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said on Thursday that the court had lifted an "illegitimate nationwide injunction" and in doing so had allowed work on the border wall to continue with military construction money. □

## Feds: Security guard threatened Trump over Iranian's death



In this Jan. 4, 2020 photo made available by the Broward Sheriff's Office, Chauncy Devonte Lump is under arrest.

Associated Press

Associated Press

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)** — A Florida security guard threatened to kill President Donald Trump as retaliation for the U.S. military killing an Iranian general, posting a live video on Facebook where he stated "he killed my leader and I have to kill him" while periodically displaying a semi-automatic rifle, authorities said in court documents.

Chauncy Lump, 26, of the Fort Lauderdale area, faces federal charges of threatening to kill the president and remained jailed

Thursday on \$100,000 bond, according to court documents filed Wednesday by the Secret Service. Agent Lucas White wrote that shortly after Trump announced last week that a U.S. airstrike had killed Qassem Soleimani in Iraq in retaliation for plotting numerous terrorist attacks, Lump under the name "BlackMan vs. America" began livestreaming a seven-minute video. During that video, agents say Lump made several threats against the president, who was staying at his Mar-a-Lago club, less

than an hour away. Lump had white cream on his face, a towel wrapped like a turban on his head and an apparent shower curtain wrapped on his body, White wrote of the video that Facebook reported to the authorities on Friday.

Lump made several threats, including "He killed my leader, please tell me where is Donald Trump?" and "I need to find the Donald because if I don't find him, I am going to have to blow up Broward County," White wrote. During the video, Lump

showed a loaded AK-47 semi-automatic rifle.

The affidavit does not say where Lump works as a security guard, but it says he has a concealed weapons permit.

When confronted early Saturday at his home, Lump admitted producing the video in response to Soleimani's death, but said it was a joke, White wrote. But nowhere in the video did Lump say he was joking and conceded, "I should not have did it in the first place," White wrote. No attorney is listed for Lump in court documents. □



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# Virginia Dems pledge to let locals move Confederate statues

Associated Press

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** —

Newly empowered Democratic leaders in Virginia pledged Thursday to let local governments remove Confederate monuments, but Gov. Ralph Northam said he's still weighing what to do with one of the state's most prominent ones — a towering statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

As Virginia wrestles with its Civil War legacy, Northam unveiled multiple initiatives Thursday that he said were aimed at telling a more accurate and inclusive version of the state's past. They include more funding for historic African American cemeteries and cultural sites and the creation of new highway markers.

At a news conference with legislative leaders and state officials, the governor also said he supports removing a statue of Lee that Virginia contributed to the U.S. Capitol grounds, and amending an existing state law that prohibits local governments from removing Confederate War memorials.

"These monuments tell a particular version of history that doesn't include every-

one. In Virginia that version of history has been given prominence and authority for far too long," Northam said.

But as for an imposing, state-owned statue of Lee that's a centerpiece of a historic street in Richmond — once the capital city of the Confederacy — the governor said "that's an ongoing discussion."

Lee's 21-foot (6-meter) statue rises atop a pedestal nearly twice that tall on a grassy circle along Monument Avenue, a prestigious boulevard in the heart of the city.

Monument Avenue, a National Historic Landmark, is also dotted with statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, generals J.E.B. Stuart and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson and Confederate naval officer Matthew Maury. A statue of black tennis hero Arthur Ashe, a Richmond native, was erected there too in 1996.

Northam's spokeswoman Alena Yarmosky declined to elaborate further about what conversations are ongoing about the Lee monument's future.

Del. Delores McQuinn, a



This June 27, 2017, file photo, shows the Confederate General Robert E. Lee statue that stands in the middle of a traffic circle on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

Democrat who represents Richmond, said she agrees that more dialogue is needed about the monument.

"Personally, I want to see additional statutes and monuments put up that would reflect a balanced history," she said.

The long-running debate over whether Confederate monuments are appropriate in public spaces intensified after white supremacists converged on Charlottesville in 2017, in part to

protest the city's attempt to move a statue of Lee. The event descended into chaos and a white supremacist plowed his car into a crowd, killing a woman and injuring dozens more.

Some who want to preserve Confederate monuments say they are works of art and say their removal would amount to erasing history. Critics say they inappropriately glorify the state's legacy of racism and slavery.

House Minority Leader Republican Del. Todd Gilbert said his caucus has bigger priorities than stopping efforts to remove Confederate statues, but warned that Democrats could be setting themselves up for headaches down the road. "We could go after Woodrow Wilson before this is over. I mean, he was one of the biggest racist presidents in U.S. history," Gilbert said. "Where this ends, I don't know." □

# U.S. border arrests drop as focus turns to Mexicans

By ELLIOT SPAGAT

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** —

The number of people arrested or stopped entering the United States on the Mexico border fell for a seventh straight month in December, with Mexicans making up a larger part of the mix, authorities said Thursday.

The tally helps explain why the U.S. has turned more attention to Mexican asylum-seekers as President Donald Trump seeks to highlight

his dramatic moves to reshape immigration policy in his campaign for a second term.

The Department of Homeland Security plans to send Mexicans to Guatemala with an opportunity to seek protection there, a highly unusual move among developing nations seeking ways to curb asylum claims. Monday's announcement drew criticism from the Mexican government,

which has so far worked closely with the U.S. to address an unprecedented surge of asylum-seekers, many of them Central American families.

The Trump administration has begun a host of other enforcement measures, including a test in El Paso, Texas, to quickly determine asylum claims and flights to deport Mexicans to Guadalajara to discourage repeat attempts. □



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# EU hopeful Albania, N. Macedonia membership talks in sight

By **LORNE COOK**

**ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)** — After years of setbacks and disappointment, two Balkan countries' hopes for launching European Union membership talks could be realized in coming weeks, according to the prime minister of Croatia, which took over the EU's rotating presidency on Jan. 1. Albania and North Macedonia were meant to start formal accession talks with the EU last year. French President Emmanuel Macron blocked the undertaking in October and said he would continue to do so until the process for admitting countries to the 28-nation bloc was reformed. Macron opposed opening the talks despite warnings that further delays to North Macedonia and Albania's membership quests could undermine stability in the volatile Balkans region. In response to the October delay, North Macedonia's leader stepped down and called snap parliamentary



President of the European Council Charles Michel, right, is welcomed by Croatia's prime minister Andrej Plenkovic in Zagreb, Croatia, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

elections, which are set for April 12. But Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and senior Croatian officials appear confident that they can meet Macron's demands

and possibly finalize by late March a date for Albania and North Macedonia to start accession negotiations, which can take several years. The EU's executive arm, the

European Commission, had recommended starting the process last year. "France had certain reservations that were more of a conceptual nature," Plenkovic told reporters in

Zagreb on Thursday. "Is the methodology for the accession process good or not?" He said the EU commission is working on a paper containing suggestions for ways to improve the "methodology" for joining the EU, plus a few concrete steps that the countries might quickly be able to take. No details were provided. Countries must negotiate 35 so-called chapters, or policy areas, to join the EU, including financial, agriculture, transport, energy, social and justice policy. The process can be drawn out. For example, Croatia, which joined the EU in 2013, started its negotiations at the same time as Turkey but Ankara is still struggling to become a member and that's unlikely to happen anytime soon. Speaking to reporters with Plenkovic, European Council President Charles Michel said steps should be taken to "modernize the enlargement process." □

# France sees more nationwide protests of pension changes

Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — French rail workers, teachers, doctors, lawyers and others joined a fourth day of nationwide protests and strikes Thursday to denounce President Emmanuel Macron's plans to overhaul the pension system. Street protests were staged in Paris and other French cities as the government and labor unions pushed on with negotiations aimed at ending railway strikes over the proposed changes that started on Dec. 5. The Paris march started from the Republique square in the city center and was accompanied by a large police presence. The Elysee presidential palace was barricaded as protesters were due to head toward the area. Unions said the protest in the capital attracted 370,000 demonstrators, while French consulting firm Occurrence estimated a crowd of 44,000. By the time the demonstra-



Protesters shout during a demonstration Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020 in Paris.

Associated Press

tion wended down, 20 demonstrators and 16 police officers had been injured, according to the Paris police department. Officers made two dozens arrests amid occasional flares of violence, Paris police said.

The Eiffel Tower was closed to visitors as employees joined the protest. Paris Metro traffic was severely disrupted, except for one automated line running normally. The national rail company,

SNCF, said about one-third of its workers were on strike Thursday, the 36th day of the strike by railway workers. Three high-speed trains out of five were in operation. Regional trains were also affected. and many

schools were closed. Unions have also called on workers to block road access to major ports, including in the southern city of Marseille. Philippe Martinez, head of hard-left CGT union, said "there are many people on strike" yet the government doesn't appear "willing to discuss and take into account the opinion of unions." Talks between the government and labor unions resumed Tuesday but no compromise has been found. A new round of negotiations focusing on the financing of the new pension system is scheduled for Friday. Macron has asked his government to find a quick compromise with reform-minded unions. So far, the government is sticking to its plan to raise the full retirement age from 62 to 64, the most criticized part of the proposals. The changes aim to unify France's 42 different pension schemes into a single one. □



# Lawmakers approve Brexit bill, UK on course for Jan 31 exit

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain passed a long-elusive milestone on the road to Brexit on Thursday when the House of Commons approved a bill authorizing the country's departure from the European Union at the end of the month.

Lawmakers voted by 330-231 to pass the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, which sets the terms of Britain's departure from the 28-nation bloc. The comfortable majority won by Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives in an election last month secured the bill's passage despite the opposition of smaller parties.

The bill was approved after three days of debate that brought none of the frayed tempers, late-night sessions and knife-edge votes that marked previous rounds of Brexit wrangling over the past year.

After passing through Parliament's unelected House of Lords — which can delay but not overturn the result in the Commons — the bill should become law in time for the U.K. to leave the EU on the scheduled date of Jan. 31 and become the first nation ever to quit the bloc.

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay said he welcomed the "constructive scrutiny" of the Lords but hoped the upper house would not try to delay the bill.

"I have no doubt that their lordships will have heard the resounding message from the British people on the 12th of December," he said.

Thursday's vote was a major victory for Johnson, who has made delivering Brexit the key aim of his premiership. Britain voted narrowly to leave the EU in a 2016 referendum. But before the Dec. 12 election, lawmakers repeatedly defeated attempts by both Johnson and predecessor Theresa May to secure backing for their Brexit blueprints.

Conservative lawmakers cheered when the result of the vote was announced. But Ian Blackford of the Scottish National Party said Scotland — which voted



Remain in the European Union, anti-Brexit protesters, including Steve Bray, at right, demonstrate outside the Houses of Parliament in London, on the day of Prime Minister's Questions taking place inside, Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020.

Associated Press

to remain in the EU in 2016 — must now be granted a referendum on independence. Johnson has said that won't happen.

"This is a constitutional crisis, because we will not and we cannot accept what is being done to us," Blackford said.

Despite Johnson's repeated promise to "get Brexit done" on Jan. 31, the departure will only mark the start of the first stage of the country's EU exit. Britain and the EU will then launch into negotiations on their future relationship, racing to strike new relationships for trade, security and a host of other areas by the end of 2020.

"Leaving the EU doesn't mean that we will have got Brexit done," said Paul Blomfield, a Brexit spokesman for the main opposition Labour Party. "We'll have completed the first step, departure, but the difficult stage is yet to come."

Top officials in the bloc are already saying that sealing a new deal will be tough. Michel Barnier, the EU's chief Brexit negotiator, said Thursday that Britain's goal of striking a full free trade agreement by the end-of-year deadline that Johnson insists on was unrealistic.

"We cannot expect to agree on every aspect of this new partnership," Barnier said, adding "we are ready to do our best in the 11 months."

International trade agreements typically take years to complete, but Johnson has ruled out extending a post-Brexit transition period agreed by the two sides beyond the end of 2020, although the EU has offered to prolong it until 2022. That has set off alarm bells among U.K. businesses, which fear Britain could face a "no-deal" Brexit at

the start of 2021. Economists say that would disrupt trade with the EU — Britain's biggest trading partner — and plunge the U.K. into recession.

Britain and the EU will have to strike deals on everything from trade in goods and services to fishing, aviation, medicines and security. The EU insists there is no way to deal with all these is-

ssues in less than a year. British officials have suggested they could carve the negotiations up into chunks, sealing deals one sector at a time.

The two sides also have conflicting demands that are likely to complicate negotiations.

Johnson says the U.K. is seeking a wide-ranging free trade deal with the bloc, but doesn't want to agree to keep all EU rules and standards. It wants to be free to diverge in order to strike new trade deals around the world.

The EU says the U.K. won't get good access to its market unless it agrees to alignment. EU officials worry that Britain plans to cut environmental and employment standards in order to position itself as a low-regulation, low-tax competitor to the bloc.

The bloc has stressed the need for a level playing field in the upcoming trade negotiations, meaning that access to the EU market will be linked to U.K. commitments to standards in area including workers' rights and the environment. □

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# Pope warns of risks from US-Iran tensions in policy speech

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — Pope Francis warned Thursday that increasing tensions between the U.S. and Iran are setting the stage for a broader conflict in the Middle East while jeopardizing efforts to rebuild Iraq.

Francis listed the "particularly troubling" deterioration of U.S.-Iran relations following the U.S. strike that killed Iran's top general in his annual foreign policy address that also touched on climate change and nuclear proliferation.

Speaking to ambassadors accredited to the Holy See, Francis denounced the "pall of silence" among world leaders about the long-running war in Syria, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and the intensified fighting in Libya in his global roundup of areas of concern for the Catholic Church.

Vatican officials and Christian leaders in Iraq have voiced alarm about Friday's airstrike in Iraq that killed Iran's Revolutionary



**Pope Francis delivers his message during an audience with members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See during the traditional exchange of New Year greetings at the Vatican, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.**

Associated Press

Guard's powerful Quds Force commander, Qassem Soleimani, and what it means for Iraq's already beleaguered Christian minorities.

Francis had hoped to travel to Iraq this year to minister

to faithful who have endured years of attacks and persecution by the Islamic State group. No trip was ever confirmed, however, and it's not clear how increased instability in Iraq might affect Vatican plan-

ning. But Francis made clear the American strike and Iran's response to it was worrisome in the volatile region.

"Particularly troubling are the signals coming from the entire region following the

heightening of tensions between Iran and the United States, which risk above all compromising the gradual process of rebuilding in Iraq, as well as setting the groundwork for a vaster conflict that all of us would want to avert," Francis told the ambassadors in the frescoed Sala Regia. "I therefore renew my appeal that all the interested parties avoid an escalation of the conflict and keep alive the flame of dialogue and self-restraint in full respect of international law."

Francis opened his remarks by praising the hope of young people, particularly as they take the lead in demanding greater attention to the threat of climate change.

Francis has made caring for the environment a pillar of his papacy. Vatican officials have praised the global youth movement sparked by Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg, who met with Francis last year. □

# Sudan's PM embarks on peace mission to rebel stronghold

By **SAMY MAGDY**

**KAUDA, Sudan (AP)** — Sudan's prime minister, accompanied by United Nations officials, embarked on a peace mission Thursday to a rebel stronghold, in a major step toward government efforts to end the country's long-running civil conflicts.

A crowd of tens of thousands, including thousands of armed rebels, welcomed Abdalla Hamdok to the Nuba Mountain's town of Kauda, about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) south of the capital Khartoum, for a meeting with Abdel-Aziz al-Hilu, who leads the powerful faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement-North. Al-Hilu's movement is Sudan's single largest rebel group and is active in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan provinces, where it controls significant chunks of territory.

The Sudanese prime minister arrived with five Cabinet ministers, the head of the U.N. World Food Pro-



**Armed rebels in support of Sudan Liberation Movement-North Leader, Adel-Aziz al-Hilu, chant slogans during a visit organized by The World Food Program (WFP) in the conflict-affected remote town of Kauda, Nuba Mountains, Sudan, Jan. 9, 2020.**

Associated Press

gramme and American, British and Norwegian diplomats.

Sudan's transitional government has been engaging in peace talks with rebel groups since October, looking to stabilize the

country and help its fragile path to democracy survive following the military's overthrow of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir last April after nearly three decades in power.

Al-Hilu is calling for a secu-

lar state with no role of religion in lawmaking, the disbanding of all al-Bashir's militias and the re-vamping of the country's military. His group says if its demands aren't met, it will call for self-determination in areas

it controls.

The area has been stricken by poverty for years, but fighting barred aid groups from visiting. Thursday's visit was just the second time since 2011 that the UN World Food Programme has been able to access the area. Aid workers were bringing with them supplies for a school feeding program that they say is a first step towards addressing dire hunger in Kauda and nearby communities.

The visit to the area is also the first for senior Sudanese officials in more than nine years. It comes as the government and rebel leaders are also engaging in peace talks in South Sudan, which itself gained independence in 2011 and has been plagued by civil war in recent years.

Sudan's new transitional government has six months to make peace with the country's rebels under a power-sharing deal reached this summer following al-Bashir's ouster. □

# Taiwan leader gets election boost from unlikely place: China

Associated Press

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** — A year ago, Taiwan's leader was on the ropes. Then she got a boost from an unexpected corner: Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Polls indicate that President Tsai Ing-wen is poised to win a second four-year term on Saturday, a remarkable turnaround for a leader whose future was in doubt after voters dealt her Democratic Progressive Party a major loss in November 2018 local elections.

Since then, Tsai has capitalized on three developments: the fears generated by China's tough words on Taiwan, protests in Hong Kong that have reinforced those fears and U.S. government actions that reassure voters that America will have Taiwan's back if the going gets tough.

"All the factors that help Tsai Ing-wen are happening: the China factor, the U.S. factor and the Hong Kong protests," pollster You Ying-lung, chairman of the Taiwan Public Opinion Foundation, said at a news conference late last month.



In this Jan. 8, 2020, photo, Tsai Ing-wen, Taiwan's President and the 2020 presidential election candidate for the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), chants slogans during an election campaign rally in northern Taiwan's Hsinchu province.

Associated Press

A victory for Tsai and her independence-leaning party would likely herald continued tensions and a further souring of relations with China, which considers self-governing Taiwan a renegade province.

Her main opponent, Han Kuo-yu of the National-

ist Party, won the mayor's race in the Democratic Progressive Party stronghold of Kaohsiung in the 2018 local elections and held a comfortable lead over Tsai in early 2019.

Tsai began chipping away at his lead in the spring and pulled ahead for good in

August. She was the clear leader by the end of the year, according to an aggregation of polls by The News Lens, an independent youth-oriented media outlet.

A Tsai victory is the last thing that Xi wants, yet it was his major policy speech on

Taiwan at the start of 2019 that many analysts point to as the starting point for her political recovery.

The Chinese leader upped the pressure on Taiwan to join China under the "one country, two systems" framework that governs Hong Kong. He called for talks on the issue, while saying that China would not rule out the use of force to achieve unification.

Tsai responded immediately, saying Taiwan's 23 million people would never accept "one country, two systems" and launching a four-day media blitz. Three weeks later, her support rating was 10 percentage points higher than after the November 2018 election setback.

She also benefited from a revamp of her public image that used memes, animation and social media to reach young voters. Campaign spokeswoman Lien Yi-ting credited the strategy with playing an important role in boosting Tsai's approval ratings.

Then came the Hong Kong pro-democracy protests, which erupted in June. □

## Russia's Putin attends Black Sea drills by the Russian navy

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday watched a naval exercise involving multiple missile launches in the Black Sea.

The Kremlin said that Putin watched the maneuvers from the Marshal Ustinov missile cruiser. The navy said the drills involved warships from Russia's Black Sea Fleet along with several ships from its Northern Fleet.

The Russian naval maneuvers come amid heightened U.S.-Iran tensions after the U.S. strike last week that killed Iran's most powerful military commander.

As part of the Black Sea drills, MiG-31 fighter jets launched Kinzhal hypersonic missiles at practice land targets. Navy ships performed several launches of Kalibr cruise missiles

and other weapons.

More than 30 warships and 39 aircraft, including several Tu-95 strategic bombers, took part in the exercise.

Putin also met with officers from the Marshal Ustinov cruiser, which is part of the Northern Fleet based in the Arctic port of Severomorsk. The ship has been on a long mission that included a deployment to the eastern Mediterranean as part of Russia's campaign in Syria. The Russian leader also took part in a meeting with military officials in Sevastopol in Crimea, which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014.

"The navy always has been a key component of national defense," Putin said. "We will maintain and strengthen our nation's status as a key naval power." Russia's Putin attends Black

Sea drills by the Russian navy

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# Fence-scaling Venezuela opposition leader rekindles his mojo

By **CHRISTINE ARMARIO**

**FABIOLA SANCHEZ**

**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— In a crisp black suit with a bright blue tie, Juan Guaidó pushed and shoved his way through rows of helmet-clad national guardsmen, cursing and scolding them like schoolchildren for blocking him from entering Venezuela's congress.

"You don't get to decide who gets in!" he yelled, inching his face up close to the young man impeding his access to the legislature's ornate halls.

In recent days, the opposition leader who drew thousands of Venezuelans to the streets last year only to see his momentum steadily fizzle as President Nicolás Maduro remains firmly in power appears to have gotten his mojo back.

Images of the man recognized by the U.S. and over 50 other nations as Venezuela's rightful president scaling the National Assembly's spiked iron fence, tussling with national guardsmen and taking a spirited oath, shouted into a darkened congress operating without electricity, seem to have riled up his base once more.

"Today he's the star once again," said Luis Vicente León, president of DataNalisis, a Caracas-based polling company. But, the analyst added: "It won't be enough. He needs to convert his potential energy into kinetic energy."

Much is resting on the 36-year-old lawmaker's shoulders: Whether he can capitalize on the new momentum could determine whether the opposition's flagging movement reinvents itself or drifts into the sidelines of history.

A significant test will come later this week when Venezuelans decide whether or not to heed his call for a new round of protests. Many are skeptical that Guaidó can still mobilize large numbers. An estimated 4.5 million people have fled the country, many of them the young people most likely to protest. Countless others are



**Opposition leader Juan Guaidó gestures during a press conference at the El Hatillo amphitheater in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

too preoccupied trying to meet basic needs like finding food and medicine to turn out for a demonstration that might not change anything.

Guaidó will also have to rally disparate opposition factions that united to reelect him as head of the National Assembly over whether or not to participate in this year's legislative elections. Thus far, the opposition hasn't articulated a joint strategy. Many are weary of participating in a vote with Maduro still in power, pointing out that the current National Electoral Council is still stacked heavily in the president's favor.

Others note that if they don't run, Maduro's government could gain control of what many see as Venezuela's last democratic institution.

At the center of it all is Guaidó, who in his new fighting stance appears to be drawing a page from the epic, age-old David and Goliath narrative of the virtuous underdog rushing to the rescue.

"Regaining momentum is important," said Maryhen Jiménez, a Venezuelan-born lecturer in politics at Oxford University. "But then there is the other side of the story, which is the passion of Venezuelans for a hero." Guaidó leaped into the in-

ternational limelight nearly one year ago when he climbed up on a stage before thousands of Venezuelans filling densely packed city blocks to declare himself the beleaguered nation's interim president on grounds that it was his constitutional right to step in because Maduro's reelection was not legitimate.

The previously unknown backbencher was immediately recognized by U.S. President Donald Trump and dozens of other nations stretching from Ecuador to Estonia.

He led a forceful street campaign, but a series of missteps proved costly.

In February, he snuck into Colombia, defying a Supreme Court order prohibiting him from leaving the country, to oversee the entry of international humanitarian aid into Venezuela. But state security forces refused to let the goods in, staying loyal to Maduro, who had prohibited them from allowing supplies in across the border.

Then came a blundered attempt at sparking a military revolt in late April. Though a few dozen soldiers joined Guaidó and his mentor, Leopoldo López, in urging the nation's armed forces to turn against Maduro, most stayed in their barracks.

Compelled to negotiate,

Guaidó and the Maduro government sat down for talks in Barbados mediated by Norway that started out promising but went nowhere. A series of corruption scandals involved purported misuse of funds for deserted soldiers and opposition lawmakers secretly doing the bidding of government allies left the opposition decidedly bruised. By December, Guaidó's approval rating had plummeted to 38 percent, down from a high of 61 percent 10 months before, León said.

Not only had Venezuelans grown distrustful of Guaidó, they'd also steadily lost faith that Maduro's unpopular government could be removed. Whereas in February over 70 percent stated in polls that they believed there'd be a change within three months, by December only 21 percent were optimistic, León said.

Sunday was expected to be more of the same: A showing of hands in favor of renewing Guaidó's reelection as head of the National Assembly, with some abstention or votes against by factions who are upset with his leadership.

Instead, it turned into a galvanizing moment. Thick rows of green-uniformed national guardsmen blocked Guaidó and other opposition lawmak-

ers from entering. At one point, he tried scaling the National Assembly's fence, only to be pulled down the tail of his suit.

Inside, Luis Parra, a one-time Guaidó ally who had been expelled by an opposition party for allegedly taking bribes to favor government associates, declared that he was the new National Assembly president, claiming to have garnered 81 votes of 150 lawmakers present, though a detailed tally has not been provided.

Separately, Guaidó held a session at a Venezuelan newspaper in which the opposition says he obtained 100 votes, including from some of his skeptics.

When Parra tried to hold a session Tuesday, Guaidó and a caravan of lawmaker supporters stormed past national guardsmen and forcibly entered the legislative building, sending the Maduro-backed leaders inside scrambling.

"Today, lawmakers delivered a victory for the Venezuelan people," Guaidó said triumphantly.

But how long might it last? In some ways, little or nothing has changed: Maduro still has control of the military and the backing of powerful institutions like the Supreme Court, while Guaidó leads a largely powerless institution with no ability to enforce its proposals.

"Once the dust is settled, he'll continue to face the same challenges," said Diego Moya Ocampos, a political risk analyst.

In one potentially telling sign, there have been no spontaneous protests in Sunday's aftermath, suggesting that the public's anger over Maduro's attempted power grab could be limited, or at least still too focused on other pressing matters.

Still, Moya Ocampos said he expects to see more forceful Guaidó in the days ahead, exercising stronger rhetoric. Guaidó's decision to leave the party of his mentor, Voluntad Popular, could also free him up to take bolder moves. □

# LOCAL




**ORANJESTAD — The Renaissance Marketplace recently opened their other-state-of-mind 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill. Start your weekend off with a great energy because this will definitely make you happy. Time will be irrelevant while taking in the chill vibes of live music and lots of fun, super drinks and scrumptious delights. You simply can't miss it!**

The dynamic manager of 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill, Carlton Ho Sing Loy, can't wait to show the guests why the bar has already earned its stripes in the States. "Everyone knows Jimmy Buffets bars in the States. He is a singer and producer who owns the Margaritaville chain named after his hit song 'Margaritaville'. You will find this bar in many places, but Aruba has the first stand-alone 5 o'clock Somewhere bar. "Here it is all about fun and entertainment. Big fans of Buffet are called Parrot Heads and for sure we will put them here at the bar. We will play games with our guests like Corn Hole, Plinko and Ring Games to interact and of course prices are to be won. Regular guests are familiar with the typical Buffet greeting which is the Fins Up. Yes, this is a happy experimental bar." A great choice to do something different for locals, and a must-do for Buffet fans.

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## 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar & Grill is the new thrill in town! "Everyone knows Jimmy Buffet's bars in the States"

can expect bottle flipping and other tricks, TV screens showing sports and daily specials like Margarita Mondays, Tito Tuesdays, Wing It Wednesdays. "It is a very different menu in the sense that we have all the original drinks that belong to the Margaritaville brand like the Margarita's Who's To Blame, Uptown Top Shelf, Livin' it up and so on. Beers, wines, boat drinks, smoothies are all part of the offering, for everyone there's something at the 5 o'clock Somewhere Bar. The menu drinks and bites are well-priced inclusive taxes and service charge. Are you craving for some Margaritaville classics? Try the 5 o'clock signature burger or the nachos with tortilla chips that are layered with beef and bean chili, cheese, pico de gallo, jalapeños, guacamole and sour cream. It is a straight, yes. But after all you are in Aruba so you may feel to taste a bit of the island. Another yes as there is the Aruban Cuban, bitterballen or Chicken Keshi Yena. It is up to you! "By the way, we also got the merchandising kiosk selling T-Shirts, caps and so on."


Zugheila Lindeborg, Local Marketing Manager: "We planned building a bar for many years already and we found the right match with the brand Margaritaville. It is a different type of bar because of the chill environment combined with lots of fun." Ho Sing Loy agrees to that: "At this bar, you can just be you. It is an easy walk-in bar for everyone. The bar is large and inviting with a DJ every night and every Friday a live band on a small stage. The ambiance will rock and the fun never stops." Raise a glass and take a bite out of paradise! For more information: Facebook / Instagram @5oclocksomewherearuba. 



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**PALM BEACH — Doctor Lili Beke from the Walk-In Clinic has a solid reputation, built up in more than 35 years of experience as a medical doctor. Both tourists and locals feel great with her for the simple reasons that she has the qualities of a great doctor: communicative, skilled, empathetic and trustworthy. Unique is the fact that you can walk into this clinic without an appointment and that the Palm Beach Service Pharmacy she partners up with is literally next door. When you feel sick during vacation you want this out of your system as soon as possible and a convenient solution is forehanded. Don't look any further, help is just around the corner. A one-stop-shopping solution.**

### Top 5 Vacation Illnesses

The most common reasons why patients walk into her clinic sound very familiar. Doctor Beke: "When on vacation you are excited so you mix meals, eat without control and combine this with more alcohol than usual resulting in an upset stomach. Digestion issues occur and when on a diet you can count on it that you will get sick." Throwing up, diarrhea, dehydration will be a bummer on your vacation. "Second occasion why people step in here is medication. They feel sick because they forgot to take their medicines with them or simply think they don't need it on holiday. But of course the body does not work differently only because you are in another place." This happens especially with patients of higher age and many times with blood pressure medication and psychological medicines, the doctor explains. "As we have the pharmacy next door we can solve this in most cases very quick so you will soon feel better again. Then of course we have the allergies, force majeure but still a hassle. Too much sun bathing is another thing causing dehydration and sun burns."

"I strongly advise to buy a new sunblock cream every vacation. Our pharmacy sells the most advanced ones that is environmental friendly, so not damaging the sea life." As fifth most common reason for patients to come see the doctor she mentions exhaustion. "You want to do everything in a short time and by the end of the day the body is exhausted, giving a reversed reaction. Take it easy please, moderate or like we say here: chill." Besides this top 5 the doctor is visited by patients with chronic diseases that often contact her in advance to travelling.

### The Little Ones

With regards to children Dr. Beke advises parents to keep an extra eye on them during vacation. "They are excited, cannot hold control, play all day in the sand and pool and eat a lot of different things. But they are sensitive and you do not want your loved ones waking up in the middle of the night vomiting or with diarrhea." Asthmatic children should be taken care of extra as the sun, water and strong draft on the island can complicate their condition. "Protect the heads of your kids, we are close to the equator and the sun rays are more rectangular thus stronger. The heat and humidity can exhaust the little bodies easily. Let them play under an umbrella preferably and keep drinking water. At the pharmacy you can buy ear plugs to prevent ear infections." The doctor stresses that there is no doubt about drinking tap water. "The water of Aruba is the best. You can drink that without problems. It is excellent. In the States it is prepared with a lot of chemicals, but here it's clean."

### Locals

Doctor Beke has a loyal local patient pool staying with her mainly because of the experience and trust. "They tell me I really listen to them, they feel attended and respected. A patient is a human being, not a casus, unfortunately many times doctors are skilled in the medical part but not on the social terrain." The latter is more and more important, especially with certain groups like teenage girls. "They prefer a female doctor to treat typical woman issues. The desire is attention and to feel at ease." Patients step in for second opinions too. "Everybody has the right to do that, it is their body and their money."

### Pharmacy Convenience

After you pick up your prescription at Dr. Beke's practice, you can go to the Palm Beach Service Pharmacy, right next door. The collaboration between these two results in a quick, efficient and quality service. It's just what you need when you feel the only thing you want is healing. Lennert van der Poel, general manager of the pharmacy, which is part of a group of 5 pharmacies (Botica di Servicio), points out that convenience is not their only unique asset. "We carry a wide variety of medicines from the US, but most of the medicines come from the EU. The prices in the EU are considerably lower than in the U.S." All medicines are European registered with the same standard as U.S. products. "The law in the States allows visitors to get prescribed medicine by a local doctor for up to 6 months, saving them a ton of money.", says van der Poel. Most common medicines requested by visitors are antibiotic, pain killers and anti-allergy medications. However, certain things do not need prescription, such as contact lenses. These don't need a prescription to get them on the island. "We've recently started importing our own 'house brand' of contact lenses called 'Optinova', and the feedback has been amazing", elaborates Van der Poel, "We carry both daily and monthly lenses, which are an ideal substitute if you forget yours when coming on vacation, or even if you would like to take some home, which is why we've seen so many return customers."

Naturally we wish you the healthiest, most wonderful vacation of your life on our Happy Island. But .... In case you are in need of a doctor and a pharmacy, just turn around, walk in and feel welcome to be cured!☑

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## Emerald Ambassadors at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 35 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple **Stuart & Susan Bernstein** from USA. The Bernstein's have been visiting Aruba for 36 years consecutively. The Emerald Ambassador certificate is the highest certificate that we present, and is given to visitors who have been visiting Aruba 35 years or more consecutively. The ceremony was one of importance to us because honoring visitors who have been coming to Aruba for over 35 years is incredibly rare and it was a very memorable moment for all of us.

The Bernstein's stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, its safety and Aruba's warm and friendly people who have become like family to them.

Richardson together with the representatives of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □



## Aruba to Me



ORANJESTAD – Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine’s Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: **Aruba to me is .....** (Email: [news@aruba-today.com](mailto:news@aruba-today.com))

For today’s newspaper we received some lovely pictures from **Margaret Johnson**. She wrote to us:



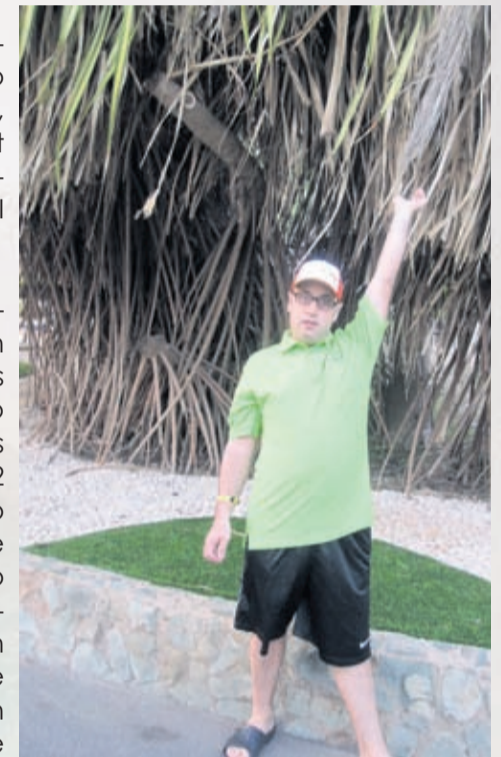
**“Aruba to us is.... The most wonderful island ever.**



I have been visiting for over 35 years. My husband (was called back home). I continue to visit because I love Aruba for the safety factors, my love and respect for all I come in contact with, the fabulous restaurants, the food quality, quantity and taste is over the moon (and I truly believe and have experienced this).

Even though my husband has passed, I continue to visit this fabulous island. I worked with my (autistic) grandson grooming him for his security to make him aware that he can do anything you want is possible. (Now 34 years old) and his development is currently 10-12 years (starting 15 years ago) to prepare him to travel and mainly to give him the experience of Aruba that his grandparents have come to love. His love for the DiviDivi All Inclusive is out-

standing; the smile on his face when he is asked to visit is worth all the money in the world. We visited Aruba last year alone (4) times. When the staff greets him by his name he shines with the biggest smile and confidence as he sits on the couch in the lobby (one of his favorite places). Stephen also reminds me daily to go to the lobby to pick up the daily newspaper. I love reading Aruba Today the only English newspaper!



Over the years we have met so many special people and became friends. To this day, we either meet on the island and/or continue to keep in touch.

Even though we pay our trip for all inclusive, we still visit other restaurants and enjoy the many different tastes. The restaurants on location are fabulous and to mention a few are the Tam buffet, Palm Garden, Paparazzi, pizza bar, and especially The Red Parrot. Some of our favorite restaurants off site are Chop House, Windows, Matthews, DD, Hooters and so many more.

The Security team is very positive, and makes us feel safe. I can approach them at any time if there is an issue or a question. Back in the day there was no such thing as security or security locks on the screens, but we learned to respect them in this day and time.

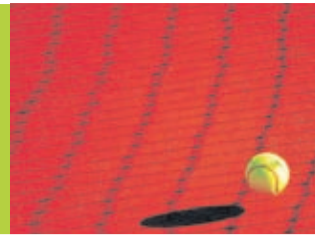
Stephen received his Certificate of Distinction award in 2015  
 Carl & I received the Certificate of Distinction award in 1996  
 I received the Ambassador of Aruba award in 2009  
 I look forward to receiving the Emerald Award in the near future



Thank you for reaching out and making our visits to Aruba SPECIAL. ☐



# SPORTS



Daniil Medvedev of Russia plays a shot against Diego Schwartzman of Argentina during their ATP Cup tennis match in Sydney, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.

Associated Press

## Heated Medvedev wins QF for Russia; Australia beats Britain

**SYDNEY (AP)** — Daniil Medvedev was docked a point for twice banging the umpire's chair with his racket in a heated second set before he recovered to secure Russia's semifinal spot at the ATP Cup with a win over Argentine opponent Diego Schwartzman.

The fourth-ranked Medvedev blamed the meltdown on jet lag from Russia's cross-continental journey from Perth to Sydney — including an overnight stop in Melbourne — between the group stage and the quarterfinals. He said he expected to get a fine for the code violation but otherwise was satisfied to win the "super tough match" 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 on Thursday to secure Russia's win over Argentina. Karen Khachanov had given Russia the lead when he beat Guido Pella 6-2, 7-6 (4). Russia completed a 3-0 sweep with victory in the doubles.

Continued on Next Page



## triple-doubles

Harden, Young get 40-points; Rockets top Hawks

Houston Rockets guard James Harden blocks a shot by Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, in Atlanta. Houston won 122-115.

Associated Press  
Page 20

# Williams stretched by McHale but wins again in Auckland

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)** — Top-seeded Serena Williams had her toughest workout of 2020 before beating fellow American Christina McHale 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 to advance to the quarterfinals of the ASB Classic. Williams dropped a set for the first time in singles or doubles this year and at times Thursday appeared to be fully stretched by the 88th-ranked McHale before finding the edge to win in just over two hours. "It was a good match for me," Williams said. "I really need to play matches like that to get to my goal. Match time is good, but I'm just glad to still be out here after losing that first set." Williams previously beat Camila Giorgi 6-3, 6-2 in singles and combined with Caroline Wozniacki in the doubles to beat Nao Hibino

and Mikoto Ninomiya 6-2, 6-4 and then Caroline Dolehide and Johanna Larsson 6-2, 6-1 to reach the semi-finals. She was under pressure early against McHale, who had two service breaks to lead 4-1 in the first set before Williams broke back. McHale broke again to take the set 6-3 but Williams began the second set strongly, leading 5-1 before leveling the match. If Williams thought the struggle was over she was mistaken. She broke twice to lead 5-2 in the third set but McHale broke back in the eighth game. Williams finally managed to overpower McHale, converting the second of three break points in the final game. Wozniacki also dropped a set to an American opponent before booking a



**Serena Williams of the U.S. reacts after winning a point during her second round singles match against compatriot Christina McHale at the ASB Classic tennis tournament in Auckland, New Zealand, Thursday, Jan 9, 2020.**

Associated Press

quarterfinal match against defending champion Julia Goerges. The former No. 1 beat Lauren Davis 6-1, 4-6, 6-4 in a marathon match between players with similar styles. Even in a one-sided first set rallies were long and the final game lasted

more than 10 minutes and contained eight deuces. Davis broke Wozniacki twice in the second set and was up a break in the third but Wozniacki fought back to snatch the win. "There were frustrating times on court when I thought I

was doing everything right and she was just playing better," Wozniacki said. "I just kept digging in there and I got a little lucky." American teenager Coco Gauff was beaten 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 by Germany's Laura Siegemund. □

**Continued from Previous Page** "I didn't have anything near me to hit at than the chair ... so just hit one thing with the racket," he said. "I got a code violation which I deserve — the second one is no question. Then we moved on." There were some other positives, Medvedev said, listing the fact that the he didn't damage the chair, injure anybody or break his racket when he hit Mohamed Lahyani's chair in a heated exchange after dropping serve in the seventh game of the second set. The Russians spent the afternoon watching the broadcast of Australia's 2-1 win over Britain in the first of the quarterfinals, when Alex de Minaur and Nick Kyrgios combined to edge Jamie Murray and Joe Salisbury 3-6, 6-3, 18-16 on their fifth match point. Kyrgios gave Australia the lead with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Cam Norrie but de Minaur lost to Dan Evans 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-6 (2), meaning the result would hinge on the doubles. The tension in the Russia-Argentina match started after

Medvedev won the first set. He had set point on serve but was broken in a game lasting 8½ minutes. He broke back to win the set but then exchanged words with Schwartzman as both players went to their team zones at each end of the court. Lahyani got out of his umpire's chair to get between the players, and later gave Medvedev a code violation for unsporting conduct for persisting with the verbal exchange. Seven games later, Medvedev approached the chair to get clarification on the code violation. He tapped the umpire's chair with the racket and was warned for it, and then hit again and got a point penalty, meaning Schwartzman started the next game with a 15-0 lead. Medvedev said he got the second code violation for arguing about the first one, "because I didn't hear it." "I will probably talk to Mohamed to see why I got it, because I don't know why I got it," Medvedev said. Schwartzman held on to his break and leveled the



**Alex De Minaur, left, and Nick Kyrgios of Australia react after winning a match point against Britain's Jamie Murray and Joe Salisbury of Britain during their ATP Cup tennis match in Sydney, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.**

Associated Press

match on his fifth set point. But Medvedev, who lost an almost five-hour U.S. Open final to Nadal last year, regained his composure in the third set, cut down his errors and got the vital break in the eighth game. Russia team captain Marat Safin commended Medvedev for blocking out the distractions. "It was important for him to stay mentally strong," Safin said. "You have to be smart, and sometimes squeeze yourself together and maintain self calm."

Medvedev won all his singles matches as Russia swept three group games in Perth, but had a tougher time against Schwartzman, who produced the win against Croatia on Wednesday in Sydney that propelled Argentina into the quarterfinals. Now the Russians will meet the winner of Friday's quarterfinal between Serbia and Canada. Australia will play either Spain or Belgium, progressing after team captain Lleyton Hewitt gambled

on sending his two singles players back out for the doubles. A euphoric Kyrgios lifted de Minaur over his shoulder and carried him off the court after the doubles win, then told the crowd he would celebrate with a red wine. Fair enough. De Minaur spent five hours on court in back-to-back matches, saving four match points before losing his singles to Evans in a 3-hour, 23-minute encounter, and then saving four match points before winning the deciding doubles in a super tiebreaker. "It was unreal. The adrenaline has kind of worn off and I'm exhausted," Kyrgios said. "But it was awesome. It was honestly — today was one of the best moments in my career, definitely." Australia's unbeaten run through the new team tournament has come at a time when the country needs some good news amid catastrophic wildfires that have claimed at least 26 lives since September, killed millions of animals and destroyed more than 2,000 homes. □

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Philadelphia Flyers' Kevin Hayes, right, celebrates after scoring a goal as Washington Capitals' John Carlson watches during the second period of an NHL hockey game Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

## Hayes' short-handed goal helps Flyers beat Capitals 3-2

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Kevin Hayes scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period short-handed to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to a 3-2 victory over the Washington Capitals on Wednesday night.

Robert Hagg and Travis Konecny also scored for the Flyers, who improved their NHL-best home record to 14-2-4. The Flyers returned to Philadelphia after losing five of six games on a disappointing road trip.

Carter Hart made 26 saves for Philadelphia while upping his home mark to 12-1-2.

The Flyers, who were home for the first time in 16 days, play the next two and five of six in Philadelphia.

Jakub Vrana and Nicklas Backstrom scored for Washington, and Braden Holtby finished with 24 saves. The Capitals, who entered with an NHL-best 65 points, had won three straight and 14 of 19.

**JETS 4, MAPLE LEAFS 3, SO TORONTO (AP)** — Blake Wheeler scored the winner in a shootout and Winnipeg beat Toronto, spoiling a milestone performance by Toronto star Auston Matthews.

Nikolaj Ehlers, Mason Appleton and Mark Scheifele scored in regulation for the Jets, who won their second straight. Connor Hellebuyck made 25 saves.

Matthews had two goals, including the tying score

with 14 seconds left in the third period. Dmytro Timashov also had a goal. Matthews joined Washington's Alex Ovechkin as the only active players to start their NHL careers with four consecutive seasons with 30 goals or more. He's also the first player in Maple Leafs history to accomplish the feat.

Jason Spezza and Matthews had goals in the shootout for Toronto. Patrik Laine, Scheifele and Wheeler gave Winnipeg the 3-2 edge in the shootout.

Frederik Andersen stopped 25 shots two days after being pulled in the second period of the Maple Leafs' 6-4 loss to Edmonton. □



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James gestures after scoring and drawing a foul during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## LeBron James moves into overall All-Star voting lead

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

It could be a Team LeBron vs. Team Giannis rematch in the All-Star Game.

LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers has passed Dallas' Luka Doncic for the overall and Western Conference lead in fan voting for the Feb. 16 game in Chicago, with about a week and a half left in the race.

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo remains the runaway leader in the Eastern Conference voting.

The game's captains -- James and Antetokounmpo held the jobs last year -- will be the All-Star starters who receive the most fan votes from his conference. James also was a captain the first time the format was used in 2018, then going up against a team picked by Golden

State's Stephen Curry.

Team LeBron beat Team Giannis last year, 178-164. Team LeBron also won the inaugural edition of this All-Star setup, topping Team Stephen 148-145 in the 2018 game.

James' lead over Doncic was 82,001 votes, the NBA said on Thursday when releasing the second balloting update.

James leads the West front-court voting with 3,359,871, ahead of his Lakers teammate Anthony Davis (3,124,446) and the Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard.

Doncic leads West guards with 3,277,870 votes, with Houston's James Harden second with 2,167,269 votes.

In the East, Antetokounmpo has nearly twice as many votes as anyone else. □

# Harden, Young post triple-doubles; Rockets top Hawks 122-115

By The Associated Press

**ATLANTA (AP)** — James Harden scored 41 points, including 22 in the first quarter, to lead the Houston Rockets over Trae Young and the Atlanta Hawks 122-115 on Wednesday night. Harden had 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his second straight triple-double. Young had 42 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. He and Harden are the first players to post 40-point triple-doubles in the same game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

The Hawks pulled within three late in the fourth quarter, the last time at 118-115 on two free throws by Alex Len. Harden sank four free throws in the final 10.4 seconds.

Clint Capela had 22 points and 22 rebounds, and Ben McLemore had 18 points in Houston's third straight win.

**SPURS 129, CELTICS 114**

**BOSTON (AP)** — DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points to lead San Antonio past Boston.

The Spurs scored 22 of the first 25 points and held on through a slightly more competitive — and controversial — second half.

Kemba Walker returned after missing three games with the flu and was ejected with back-to-back technical fouls when he argued a non-call in the third quarter.

A full bottle or cup was thrown from the stands, landing in front of the San Antonio bench; no one was hit. The game was delayed briefly while the court was cleaned.

The hubbub — Celtics coach Brad Stevens also was given a T — slowed a Boston rally that cut what had been a 22-point deficit to 76-69.

Lonnie Walker IV added 19 points for the Spurs. Gordon Hayward scored 18 points



Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) shoots as Atlanta Hawks center Alex Len defends during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020, in Atlanta. Houston won 122-115.

and Jaylen Brown had 16 for Boston. The Celtics have lost two in a row for just the third time this season.

**RAPTORS 112, HORNETS 110, OT**

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** — Serge Ibaka made two free throws with 5.1 seconds left in overtime and finished with 23 points and 11 rebounds as banged-up Toronto edged Charlotte.

Terence Davis also had 23 points and 11 boards, OG Anunoby added 19 points and Kyle Lowry had 15 points and nine assists while having to play 43 minutes due to injuries. Patrick McCaw added 13 points and 11 assists as the Raptors avoided taking losses on back-to-back nights for the first time since Dec. 26-27, 2017.

Terry Rozier led the Hornets with 27 points, but his 3-pointer at the buzzer in overtime fell short. Miles Bridges added 26 points and nine rebounds and P.J. Washington had 12 points

and 12 rebounds.

**HEAT 122, PACERS 108**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Tyler Herro had 19 points, Duncan Robinson scored 11 of his 17 points in a decisive third quarter and seven Miami players scored in double figures in a win over Indiana.

Bam Adebayo and Derrick Jones each scored 18 points, Goran Dragic and Kendrick Nunn added 15 each and Jimmy Butler pitched in 14 for Miami. The Pacers (23-15) were led by Domantas Sabonis, who finished with 27 points and 14 rebounds for his 30th double-double of the season.

**MAGIC 123, WIZARDS 89**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** — Nikola Vucevic scored 29 points, Evan Fournier added 19, and Orlando beat Washington.

Admiral Schofield scored 18 points, and Troy Brown, Jr. had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Wizards.

Orlando took control with

a 23-5 run to close the second quarter for a 69-52 lead. The advantage ballooned to 29 points in the early stages of the third quarter.

A rash of injuries left the Wizards with only nine players available.

**NUGGETS 107, MAVERICKS 106**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Nikola Jokic scored 26 of his 33 points in the second half, including the winning basket with 7.9 seconds left, and Denver pulled out a win over Dallas.

Jokic backed down Dorian Finney-Smith on the right side of the lane and got a favorable bounce on his left-handed layup.

On the Mavericks' final possession, Finney-Smith's pass from the baseline to Tim Hardaway Jr. was off the mark.

Luka Doncic led Dallas with 27 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds. The Mavericks played their fifth straight game without Kristaps Porzingis (right knee soreness).

The Nuggets were missing two starters. Will Barton, second on the team in rebounding, missed the game for personal reasons. Paul Millsap sat out with a bruised left knee.

**PELICANS 123, BULLS 108**

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** —

Brandon Ingram had 29 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and New Orleans dealt Chicago its fifth straight loss.

JJ Redick hit six 3-pointers on his way to 24 points, while rookie Jaxson Hayes had 14 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks to help the Pelicans win for the seventh time in 10 games.

Zach LaVine scored 32 for the Bulls, who are in the midst of their longest losing streak this season. Thaddeus Young scored 18 in his return to the city where he was born.

**JAZZ 128, KNICKS 104**

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Emmanuel Mudiay scored a season-high 20 points against his former team, and Rudy Gobert added 16 points and 16 rebounds to power Utah past short-handed New York.

Mudiay, who played for the Knicks last season before signing with the Jazz in the summer, made 8 of 12 shots and added four assists.

Bojan Bogdanovic also scored 20 points and Donovan Mitchell had 16 in limited minutes for Utah, which has won seven straight and 12 of 13.

Frank Ntilikina had 16 points in 19 minutes and Bobby Portis added 13 points and 13 rebounds for New York.

**BUCKS 107, WARRIORS 98**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 30 points and 12 rebounds while leading four Milwaukee starters in double figures, and the NBA-best Bucks held off Golden State.

Khris Middleton added 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists for Milwaukee.

Alec Burks scored 19 points and Glenn Robinson III and Damion Lee added 15 points apiece for the cold-shooting Warriors, who lost their sixth straight game and third in a row at home. Willie Cauley-Stein contributed 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Draymond Green was back for Golden State after sitting out Monday with a sprained right ankle and had five points on 1-for-7 shooting, eight rebounds and eight assists. □



# Top seeds back in action as NFL's divisional round kicks off

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The bye-week breaks are over for the top two seeds in the AFC and NFC after a, well, wild wild-card weekend to open the NFL playoffs.

That means it's back to work for Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens. Same for Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs. Jimmy Garoppolo and the San Francisco 49ers and Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers, too.

"Yes, it feels like it's been forever," Jackson said. "It feels like it's a whole new season already."

It's down to the final four teams in each conference and the divisional round includes intriguing matchups. The Chiefs are the only team of the eight that got at least this far last year; the Ravens, Seahawks and Texans all lost in the wild-card round. The 49ers, Packers, Titans and Vikings didn't even make the postseason a year ago.

"It's the playoffs," Garoppolo said. "You've got to love it."

The 49ers (13-3) are the top seed in the NFC and take on the visiting Vikings (11-6) in the first game Saturday. That's followed by the Ravens (14-2), the No. 1 team in the AFC, hosting the Titans (10-7).

On Sunday, it's the Chiefs (12-4) at home against the Texans (11-6), followed by the Seahawks (12-5) at the Packers (13-3).

## MINNESOTA-SAN FRANCISCO

The 49ers won the NFC West for the first time since 2012, and Garoppolo will make the first postseason start of his NFL career.

He'll face a Vikings' defense that wreaked havoc on Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints last Sunday before Kirk Cousins led a 75-yard touchdown drive to win it 26-20 in overtime. That's after Danielle Hunter and Everson Griffen combined for three sacks and Minnesota caused two turnovers.

"They're a talented group, defensively," Garoppolo said. "They make it tough on offenses. That D-line, they're impressive and they



**Tennessee Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill hands off to running back Derrick Henry, left, in the first half of an NFL wild-card playoff football game against the New England Patriots, Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, in Foxborough, Mass.**

get after you. So it'll be a good test for us."

Meanwhile, the 49ers will be tasked with having to stop the Vikings' offense with a confident Cousins, who was able to put to rest the knock that he's unable to win a big game. His 4-yard TD pass to Kyle Rudolph against the Saints was the exclamation point — and earned him the game ball from coach Mike Zimmer.

"It was just about him solidifying himself with all of the bad rhetoric that he gets all the time about this or that," Zimmer said. "I just felt like it was time to tell a lot of people that he's our guy and he did it."

## TENNESSEE-BALTIMORE

The Ravens come in having won 12 straight and with the best record in the league.

They have run over — and past — teams all season, with Jackson and running back Mark Ingram leading the way. Baltimore finished the regular season with 3,296 yards rushing — the most by a team in NFL history. The runnin' Ravens

also averaged 206 yards per game, the first team to average 200 or more since 1977.

So the Titans will certainly have their hands full — or they at least hope to be able to make enough tackles to keep Jackson and the Ravens from getting into a rhythm. Jackson led the league with 36 touchdown passes while also setting an NFL record for quarterbacks by rushing for 1,206 yards.

"He's definitely a different beast, man," Titans defensive lineman Jurrell Casey said. "Not one guy in the league now or in the past that can match up and compare to what that guy can do."

Ryan Tannehill isn't anywhere near as dynamic as Jackson, but he has been solid since taking over as the Titans' starting quarterback. He's 8-3 and led the NFL with a career-high 117.5 passer rating while throwing 22 touchdown passes and six interceptions. Derrick Henry led the league with 1,540 yards rushing

during the regular season and went for 182 and a TD last week while helping power the Titans past Tom Brady and the defending Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

"The key to stopping play-action is stopping the run game," Ravens safety Earl Thomas said. "I think when the run game gets going, that's when the play-action shot is available, because the defense is so aggressive trying to stop the run. So if we knock that out from the start, I think we'll be fine."

## HOUSTON-KANSAS CITY

Last week was all about comebacks for the Texans. Star defensive end J.J. Watt returned from a torn pectoral muscle that was expected to keep him sidelined until next season. Instead, he was back on the field and made a key sack against Buffalo.

Oh, and a 16-0 deficit was no match for Deshaun Watson and the Texans, who stormed back to beat the Bills 22-19 in overtime. "The game is never over," Watson said. "Regardless, if

we're down 16-0, 7-0, 28-0, I'm going to keep fighting. I'm going to keep playing."

The next test is the Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium — where they've proven they can win after beating Kansas City 31-24 in October.

The Chiefs' defense has gotten a lot stingier since then, though, allowing a total of 69 points in the last six games — all victories.

Mahomes has the offense rolling again and is the first player in franchise history to pass for at least 4,000 yards and 25 or more touchdowns in consecutive seasons — despite missing two games with a knee injury. The key for Houston's defense, though, might be making sure it knows where Travis Kelce is at all times. He became the first tight end in NFL history with at least 1,000 yards receiving yards in four straight years.

"They've got playmakers all over who can do many different things," Watt said.

## SEATTLE-GREEN BAY

Russell Wilson and the Seahawks have been a tough team to face at home for years, using their ear-splitting "12th Man" crowd to overwhelm opponents.

They flipped the script this year.

Seattle is 8-1 on the road, including a 17-9 win at Philadelphia last Sunday. They'll have to keep that road warrior mentality going at Lambeau Field.

"There's no tougher place to play than going to Green Bay," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said.

Still, Seattle won't be fazed, especially if its defense puts together another impressive performance like last week's, when the Seahawks had seven sacks to set a franchise postseason record. They'll have to do it against Rodgers, who is right at home in the playoffs. He ranks fifth in NFL postseason history with 36 touchdown passes.

"They're tough to beat when they're away from their home stadium, which is kind of an outlier in this league," said the Packers' Matt LaFleur, who is the fifth rookie coach to win 13 or more games in a season. □

Associated Press

# IOC details rules on political protests at Olympics

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**  
AP Sports Writer

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)** — No taking a knee at the Olympics. No hand gestures with political meaning. No disrespect at medal ceremonies.

The International Olympic Committee published guidelines Thursday specifying which types of athlete protests will not be allowed at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Athletes are prohibited by the Olympic Charter's Rule 50 from taking a political stand in the field of play — like the raised fists by American sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Mexico City Games.

Today's Olympians now know more about which acts of "divisive disruption" will lead to disciplinary action in Tokyo. They can still express political opinions in official media settings or on social media accounts.

"We needed clarity and they wanted clarity on the rules," said Kirsty Coventry, chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, which oversaw the new three-page document. "The majority of athletes feel it is very important that we respect each other as athletes."



**International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach, left, and IOC member and former swimmer Kirsty Coventry, right, speak during a press conference after the executive board meeting of the IOC, at the Olympic House, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020.**

**Associated Press**

Coventry, an Olympic gold medalist in swimming, is now Zimbabwe's sports minister.

Athletes who break protest rules at the July 24-Aug. 9 Tokyo Games face three rounds of disciplinary action — by the IOC, a sport's governing body and a national Olympic body.

The new guidelines come after two American ath-

letes were reprimanded by the U.S. Olympic Committee for medal podium protests at the Pan-American Games in August in Lima, Peru. Fencer Race Imboden knelt and hammer thrower Gwen Berry raised a fist in protest. Both were put on probation for 12 months, a period that covers the Tokyo Olympics. Other protests in 2019 in-

cluded swimmers from Australia and Britain refusing to join world championship gold medalist Sun Yang on the podium because the Chinese star has been implicated in doping violations.

A political gesture at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics went unpunished in the men's marathon. Silver medalist Feyisa Lilesa

crossed his wrists at the finish line to show support with freedom-seeking protesters in his home region of Ethiopia.

"It is a fundamental principle that sport is neutral and must be separate from political, religious or any other type of interference," the IOC document states, urging "the focus for the field of play and related ceremonies must be on celebrating athletes' performance." A meeting Thursday between the IOC executive board and athletes' panel also discussed the charter's Rule 40, which strictly limits an athletes ability to promote their sponsors during official Olympic Games periods.

German athletes working outside the IOC system won concessions last year in a ruling that has led to Olympic bodies in the United States, Australia and Canada to offer a better deal to their athletes.

In the German case, a federal cartel agency sided against the IOC's argument that retaining exclusive rights for its top-tier sponsors protected the value of deals that help fund sports and athletes globally. □



**Miami Dolphins wide receiver Albert Wilson, second from right, speaks during a meeting between law enforcement officials and hotel groups to announce a campaign to prevent human trafficking surrounding next month's Super Bowl NFL football game in the Miami area, Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, in Miami Beach, Fla.**

**Associated Press**

By **CURT ANDERSON**

**MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — To combat human trafficking during the Super Bowl, law enforcement officials said Thursday that they need hotel workers, ride-hailing service drivers and

security personnel to be especially alert.

These are the people most likely to encounter the victims and perpetrators of trafficking — and would be able to provide authorities with tips and evidence

## Worker help sought to combat Super Bowl human trafficking

of the crime taking place, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody said at the "No Room for Trafficking" conference, held at the Fontainebleau Hotel.

The people most likely to be enslaved for sex work are young girls, officials said. They noted that events such as the Feb. 2 Super Bowl, with all its attendant parties, are ripe for human and sex trafficking. They also noted that trafficking occurs throughout the year, not just during major events.

"We're enlisting people to help law enforcement," said Moody, who chairs a statewide task force on human trafficking. "Most of the cases begin with anonymous tips. That's how we'll

catch these guys." The hospitality industry is taking notice. Cecil Staton, president and CEO of the Asian American Hotel Owners Association, said it's bad business for people who run hotels to allow human trafficking.

"No honest hotelier wants human trafficking on their property. We are all about collaboration," Staton said. Mary Rogers, vice president and general manager at the Fontainebleau, said all of the hotel's employees receive regular training on possible signs of human trafficking: rooms where people come and go at all hours, cash payments and young women who never leave their rooms.

"We just encourage everyone to report anything they see that looks suspicious," Rogers said. "We really, really encourage that culture."

Similarly, authorities want ride-hailing services such as Uber and Lyft, as well as taxi drivers, to be aware of what is being said in their vehicles and to recognize when something doesn't seem right. Moody was participating in a training event for Uber drivers later Thursday.

"It has to be a concerted effort that never stops," said Chip Rogers, president and CEO of the American Hotel & Lodging Association. "It will take all of our efforts to make this happen." □



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid looks at his injured finger during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Oklahoma City Thunder, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

## 76ers center Joel Embiid to have surgery on finger

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia center Joel Embiid will have surgery Friday for a torn ligament in a finger in his left hand and will be evaluated in one to two weeks.

"All of a sudden, we're different," 76ers coach Brett Brown said. "We're just different. I look at this as an opportunity. Nobody's crying. This is not a 'woe is me' moment, not for me, at all. And not for my players. We'll take what we have, and what we have, I love." Embiid injured the radial collateral ligament in the ring finger in the first half Monday night against Oklahoma City. Embiid's overlapped his pinkie to

the point that it seemed he had his fingers crossed. He played most of the game with his finger taped and said he "couldn't go up with two hands."

Embiid has struggled with injuries ever since he was drafted with the No. 3 pick of the 2014. He missed his first two seasons with various injuries and hasn't played more than 64 games in any of the last three. He is averaging 23.4 points and 12.3 rebounds in 31 games this season.

Al Horford, signed away from the Celtics in the off-season with a four-year deal, started at center Thursday against the Boston Celtics. □

## Tebow will be at Mets' spring training for 4th straight year

NEW YORK (AP) — Tim Tebow will be at spring training with the New York Mets for the fourth straight year.

The Mets said Thursday the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner will report to major league training camp next month in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The 32-year-old outfielder hit .163 in 77 games last season at Triple-A Syracuse in his second straight injury-shortened season. He did not play after July 21 because he cut his left hand while fielding a ball in

the outfield.

Tebow hit .273 with six home runs, 14 doubles and 36 RBIs in 84 games for Double-A Binghamton in 2018, when his season ended July 18 because of a broken bone in his right hand.

After a three-year stint at quarterback in the NFL, he joined the Mets organization in late 2016. He hit .148 (4 for 27) with no extra-base hits and eight strikeouts during spring training in 2017; .056 (1 for 18) in 2018 and .267 (4 for 15) with no extra-base hits last year. □



In this Aug. 14, 2019, file photo, Claressa Shields, left, stands with Ivana Habazin and promoter Dmitry Salita during a press conference in Detroit.

Associated Press

## Gold medalist Shields goes for title in 3rd weight class

By DAN GELSTON  
AP Sports Writer

Claressa Shields will try for a third time to win a world title in three divisions.

The first bout against Ivana Habazin was scratched because Shields injured her knee in training. The second attempt, wacky even for the world of boxing weigh-ins, went off the rails: Habazin's trainer was struck by Shields' brother and was hospitalized the night before the bout, so the fight was postponed.

Shields and Habazin have kept the week leading up to Friday's 154-pound fight in Atlantic City, New Jersey, free of drama or any other distractions that could cancel the bout yet again.

The fight is on, and history is on deck for the 24-year-old Shields.

"I just try to keep carrying women's boxing the best way that I can," Shields said. "I'm regarded as a top-10 fighter in boxing already with only nine fights. When you have that kind of pressure, you have to go out and not be average. Skill wise, there's not a woman that can compare

to me."

Shields (9-0, 2 KOs) won Olympic gold in 2012 in London and repeated the feat four years later in Rio de Janeiro. All that's left for Shields, who overcame a childhood of poverty and abuse in Flint, Michigan, is to become the best of all time.

"When I win this fight, I'm just going to get a little bit louder with: She's the GWOAT, Greatest Women Of All Time," Shields said. "Put it there. I claim it."

Shields, who hasn't lost since 2012 as an amateur, already has won the middleweight and super middleweight crowns and beat Christina Hammer in her last fight in April in Atlantic City.

Her layoff wasn't supposed to stretch into 2020, but her injury scratched the scheduled August fight with Habazin (20-3, 7 KOs), who is from Croatia. The fight was rescheduled for October in Flint, a supposed triumphant homecoming bout for Shields, who refused to slip through the cracks in her hometown and gravitated toward

boxing as a way to get out. But the weigh-in went haywire and 68-year-old trainer Bashir Ali was bloodied and needed an ambulance after the attack. In the wake of the melee, Artis Mack was charged with assault and the fight was shelved for a second time.

"Everyone who was in Flint and knows about the incident that happened knows it's not something I have a history of doing," Shields said. "I don't do stuff outside the ring."

Shields, who said she hasn't eaten meat in more than three months to help move down to junior middleweight, could become the fastest fighter in boxing history — either male or female — to become a three-division world champion. Granted, women's boxing doesn't have the depth of talent or years of title fights as men, but Shields could be a game-changer for the sport. She's even interested in pursuing an MMA career, trading her skills inside the ropes for ones inside the cage.

"I'm once-in-a-century kind of athlete," she said. □

# Facebook bans deepfakes in fight against online manipulation

**LONDON (AP)** — Facebook says it is banning "deepfake" videos, the false but realistic clips created with artificial intelligence and sophisticated tools, as it steps up efforts to fight online manipulation. But the policy leaves plenty of loopholes.

The social network said late Monday that it's beefing up its policies for removing videos edited or synthesized in ways that aren't apparent to the average person, and which could dupe someone into thinking the video's subject said something he or she didn't actually say.

Created by artificial intelligence or machine learning, deepfakes combine or replace content to create images that can be almost impossible to tell are not authentic.

"While these videos are still rare on the internet, they present a significant challenge for our industry and society as their use increases," Facebook's vice president of global policy management, Monika Bickert, said in a blog post.

However, she said the new rules won't include parody or satire, or clips edited just to change the order of words. The exceptions underscore the balancing act Facebook and other social media services face in their struggle to stop the spread of online misinformation and "fake news," while also respecting free speech



This March 29, 2018 file photo, shows the logo for social media giant Facebook at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square.

Associated Press

and fending off allegations of censorship.

The U.S. tech company has been grappling with how to handle the rise of deepfakes after facing criticism last year for refusing to remove a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi slurring her words, which was viewed more than 3 million times. Experts said the crudely edited clip was more of a "cheap fake" than a deepfake.

Then, a pair of artists posted fake footage of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg showing him gloating over his one-man domina-

tion of the world. Facebook also left that clip online. The company said at the time that neither video violated its policies.

The problem of altered videos is taking on increasing urgency as experts and lawmakers try to figure out how to prevent deepfakes from being used to interfere with the U.S. presidential election in November. The new policy is a "strong starting point," but doesn't address broader problems, said Sam Gregory, program director at Witness, a nonprofit working on using video technology for human rights.

"The reality is there aren't that many political deepfakes at the moment," he said. "They're mainly non-consensual sexual images." The bigger problem is videos that are either shown without context or lightly edited, which some have dubbed "shallow fakes," Gregory said. These include the Pelosi clip or one that

made the rounds last week of Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden that was selectively edited to make it appear he made racist remarks.

Gregory, whose group was among those that gave feedback to Facebook for the policy, said that while the new rules look strong on paper, there are questions around how effective the company will be at uncovering synthetic videos.

Facebook has built deepfake-detecting algorithms and can also look at an account's behavior to get an idea of whether it's intention is to spread disinformation. That will give the company an edge over users or journalists in sniffing them out, Gregory said.

But those algorithms haven't been used widely for deepfakes in the wild. "So it is an open question how effective detection will be," he said. "This is an algorithmic kind of game of cat and mouse, where

the forgeries will get better alongside the detection." Facebook said any videos, deepfake or not, will also be removed if they violate existing standards for nudity, graphic violence or hate speech. Those that aren't removed can still be reviewed by independent third-party fact-checkers and any deemed false will be flagged as such to people trying to share or view them, which Bickert said was a better approach than just taking them down. "If we simply removed all manipulated videos flagged by fact-checkers as false, the videos would still be available elsewhere on the internet or social media ecosystem," Bickert said. "By leaving them up and labeling them as false, we're providing people with important information and context."

Twitter, which has been another hotbed for misinformation and altered videos, said it's in the process of creating a policy for "synthetic and manipulated media," which would include deepfakes and other doctored videos. The company has asked for public feedback on the issue. The responses it's considering include putting a notice next to tweets that include manipulated material. The tweets might also be removed if they're misleading and could cause serious harm to someone.

YouTube, meanwhile, has a policy against "deceptive practices" that the company says includes the "deceptive uses of manipulated media" that may pose serious risk of harm. For instance, the company removed the Pelosi video last year. Google, which owns YouTube, is also researching how to better detect deepfakes and other manipulated media. □





# World Bank sees modest global 2020 rebound but trade a risk

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The World Bank says the global economy should see a modest rebound in growth this year.

But the 189-nation lending institution is cautioning that a number of risks could upend its forecast, including the possibility of renewed trade hostilities between the world's two biggest economies, the United States and China.

In an updated economic outlook released Wednesday, the World Bank forecast the global economy will grow 2.5% this year, up only slightly from 2.4% growth in 2019. That had been the weakest performance since the 2008 financial crisis and a significant slowdown from growth rates above 3% in 2017 and 2018.

The bank's revised outlook represents a downgrade from its last forecast in June when it had expected growth to be 0.2 percentage-points higher this year. The forecast also trimmed its expectation for global



In this Oct. 19, 2019, file photo, members of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) meet at the World Bank/IMF Annual Meetings in Washington.

Associated Press

growth by 0.2 percentage points over the next two years to moderate rates of 2.6% in 2021 and 2.7% in 2022.

"Downside risks persist. The recovery is fragile," said World Bank Vice President Ceyla Pazarbasioglu. "Uncertainty has weighed on

confidence, trade and investment which are all critical for growth."

For the United States, the World Bank sees gross domestic product growth slowing from 2.3% in 2019 to 1.8% in 2020 and then slowing further to 1.7% in both 2021 and 2022.

Those growth rates are significantly below the 3%-plus growth President Donald Trump has promised to deliver with his economic program of tax cuts and deregulation.

For Europe, the World Bank has an even gloomier outlook. Last year's minuscule

1.1% growth is expected to be followed by further scant gains of 1% this year and 1.3% in both 2021 and 2022.

The new forecast projects China, the world's second largest economy, will grow at steadily slower rates of 5.9% this year, 5.8% next year and 5.7% in 2022. That would mark the slowest growth period for China since the early 1990s.

Economic growth in both China and the United States has been impacted by the uncertainty generated by the punitive tariffs both countries have imposed on each other's goods.

Growth for all advanced economies is expected to slip to 1.4% this year, down from 1.8% last year, reflecting continued softness in manufacturing in many parts of the world that has caused businesses to pull back on their plans to expand and modernize production facilities.

Growth in emerging economies is expected to accelerate to 4.1% this year, but the acceleration will not be broad based. □

# US consumers took it easy on their credit cards in November

By **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. consumers slowed their borrowing in November, mainly by piling up less credit card debt.

The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that consumer credit rose by a seasonally adjusted \$12.5 billion in November, down from a gain of \$19 billion in October.

The sharp slowdown reflected a \$2.5 billion decline in borrowing in the category that covers credit cards

that followed a strong gain of \$7.9 billion in October. November's was the weakest showing since credit card debt fell by \$2.8 billion in March.

But borrowing for auto loans and student debt rose \$14.9 billion in November. That was up from an October increase of \$11.1 billion and was the strongest advance since August.

Consumer borrowing is closely watched for signals it can provide about Americans' willingness to take on

debt to finance consumer spending, which accounts for 70% of U.S. economic activity.

Forecasters believe the overall U.S. economy slowed to growth of around 2.3% in 2019 after a strong 2.9% gain in 2018. The slowdown was linked in part

to actions by the Trump administration to pressure China and other nations to abandon trade practices the administration sees as harmful to U.S. workers.

The rising trade uncertainty weakened U.S. manufacturing that was already hobbled by a global eco-

nomical slowdown.

The expectation is for a further slowdown in growth this year. Analysts, however, are counting on low unemployment to provide the fuel for consumers to keep spending. □




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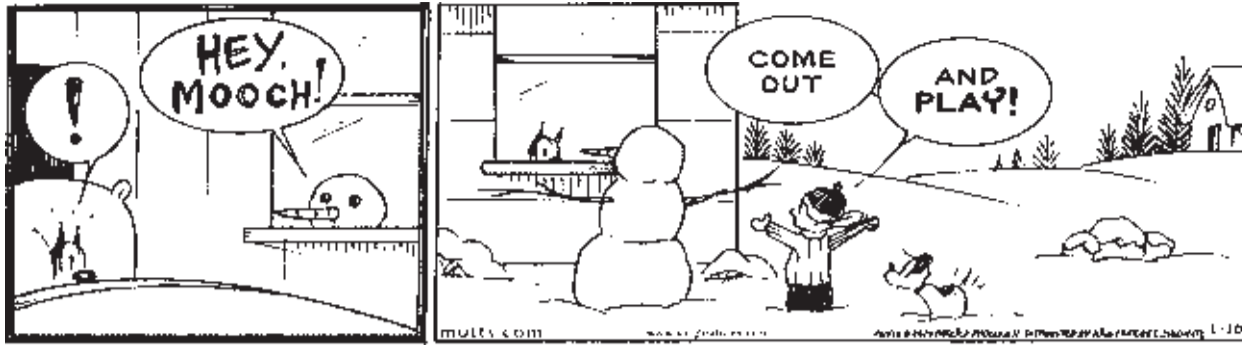
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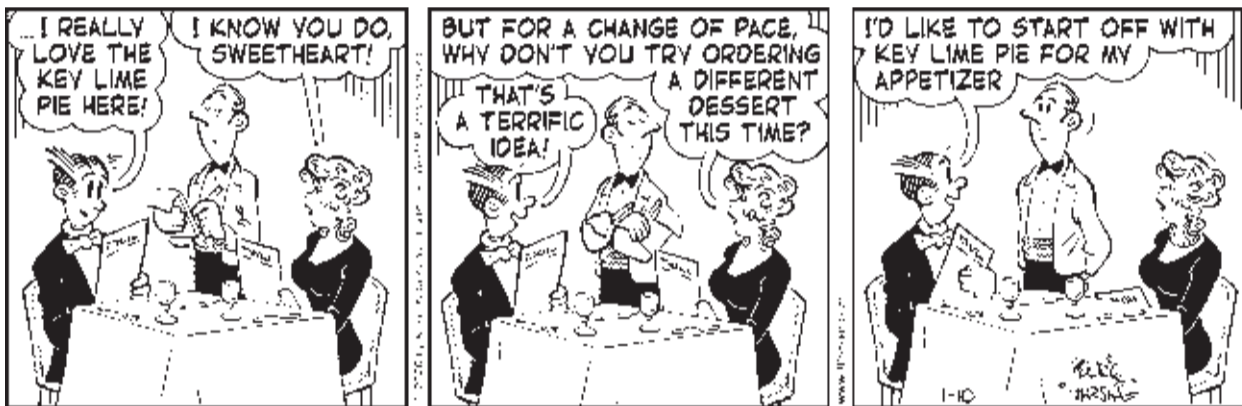
**Mutts**



**6 Chix**



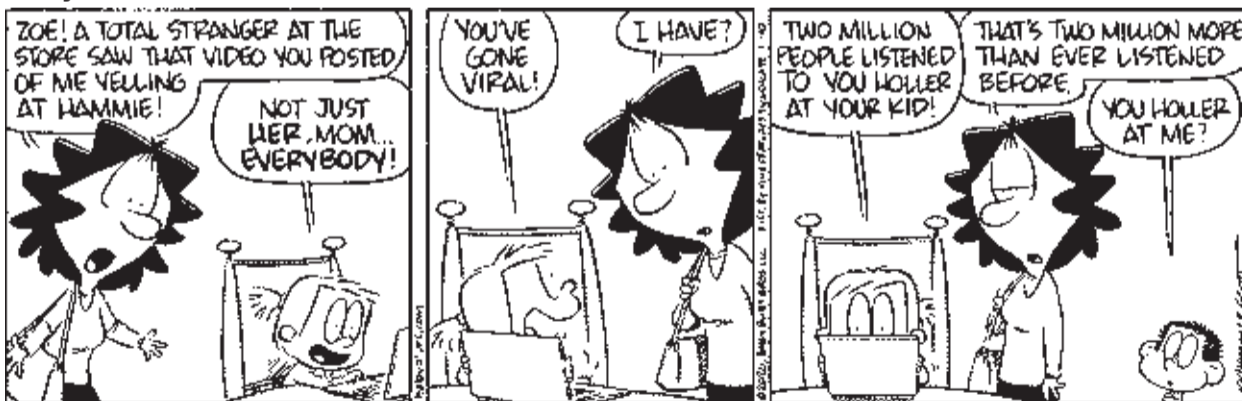
**Blondie**



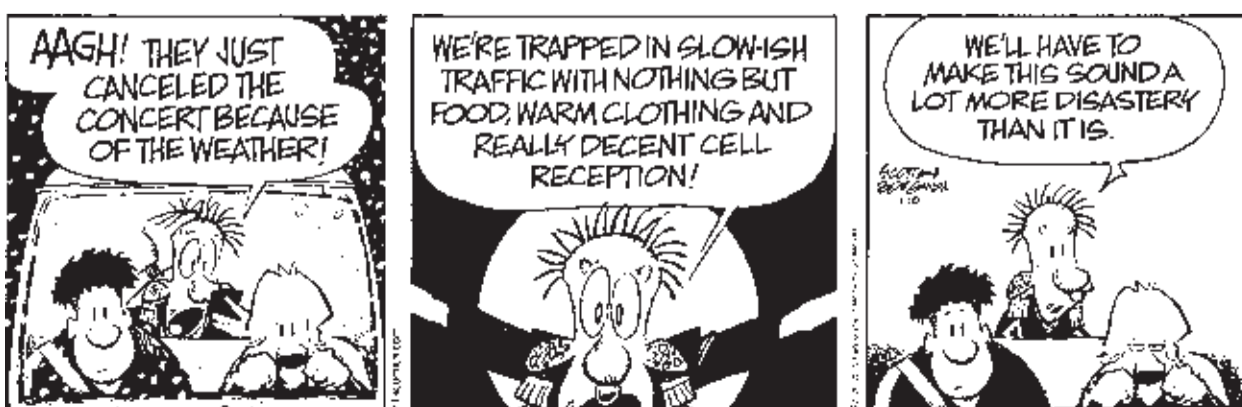
**Mother Goose & Grimm**



**Baby Blues**



**Zits**



**Conceptis Sudoku**

	1							
8			2			4		
	9	3		8	2		7	
	2				4			
6			8				3	
	8				9			
9	3	7		2	5			
	5		4			6		
						7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

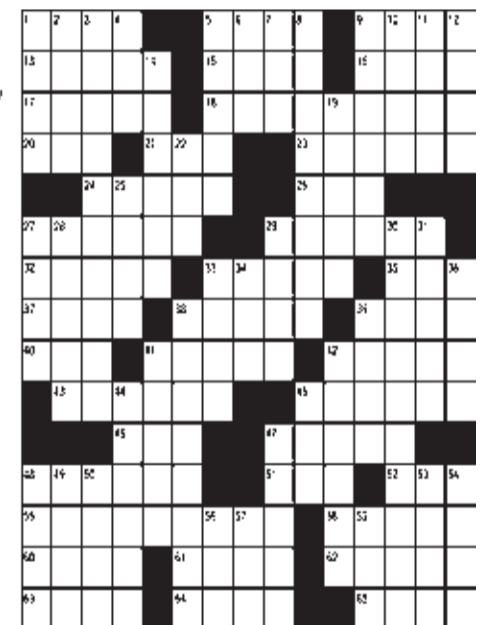
3	2	7	6	1	5	4	9	8
1	9	4	8	7	2	6	5	3
5	8	6	3	9	4	7	2	1
6	3	9	4	5	1	2	8	7
7	4	1	2	8	9	5	3	6
8	5	2	7	6	3	1	4	9
4	7	8	5	3	6	9	1	2
2	1	3	9	4	7	8	6	5
9	6	5	1	2	8	3	7	4

**ACROSS**

- 17 to My Lou children's song
- 5 up, form a row
- 9 in a...pouty
- 13 Flooring pieces
- 15 Crazy as a
- 16 Small skin opening
- 17 Make calm
- 18 Vectorial man
- 20 African ante-lope
- 21 Food carrier
- 23 Most latest
- 24 Crazy enthusiasm
- 26 Access West
- 27 Black eye
- 29 unwanted nose growths
- 32 Gusty
- 33 Devout
- 35 Curved bone
- 37 Rome wasn't built in
- 38 Jocks & jokers
- 39 Explorer Marco
- 40 up until now
- 41 Shoe bottoms
- 42 Bit of gossip
- 43 Nostril separator
- 45 Bewilderment
- 46 High altitude
- 47 Ere or Panama
- 48 Shocked
- 51 Traitor
- 52 Four qts.
- 55 Fraternal
- 58 of Two Cities
- 60 Patri
- 61 Ooze out
- 62 Early guitars
- 63 Warned
- 64 Stern
- 65 Mrs. Truman

**DOWN**

- 1 Vain animal
- 2 Potter's oven
- 3 Bragging
- 4 Spill soup
- 5 Camel's smaller cousin
- 6 Doctor's note
- 7 As lively as a procaudy
- 8 Very big
- 9 Actor Kevin
- 10 Musica symbol
- 11 Element whose symbol is Fe
- 12 Circus shelter
- 14 Most precious Australian city
- 19 Lunch & dinner
- 22 Lung contents
- 25 Mayberry resident
- 27 Convince
- 28 Conceal
- 29 Groups of whales
- 30 Make known publicly
- 31 Farm lowers
- 33 Part of the hand
- 34 Rage
- 36 Use a dial
- 38 Fair's wife
- 39 W of leine
- 41 Store away
- 42 Hertz car



Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews 1/1/20

**Thursday's Puzzle Solved**

MRS	ASWAN	ITCH
ROAD	SPADE	MALE
TALE	SEIZE	BLUR
RESPECTED	IKES	
PUTS	LAB	
SPRIGS	OPERETTA	
QUITS	FALSE	OWN
GIVE	VIRUS	POET
ASH	SAFES	FILES
DETAILED	TOASTY	
GNU	BARN	
HALE	ABSURDITY	
UPON	BLURT	SOUP
LENT	LANKA	TECH
ASIS	EBSEN	SKI

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- 44 Babbed
- 45 Pasture dry
- 47 Burial chamber
- 48 Suffix for reason or respect
- 49 Hair color
- 50 Put a sharp edge on
- 53 Stern drinks
- 54 than peaced unhappy
- 56 Petri for one abbr.
- 57 Name for 13 popes
- 59 "Rub-a-dub-dub" three men in a



# Patients push limits for clues to chronic fatigue syndrome

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

**BETHESDA, Md. (AP)** — Researchers hooked Zach Ault to medical monitors as he slowly climbed onto a gym bike. An invisible disease is sidelining this once avid athlete and he knew the simple exercise would wipe him out — but Ault was pedaling for science.

Chronic fatigue syndrome is one of medicine's most vexing mysteries. Now doctors at the National Institutes of Health are using volunteers like Ault for a unique study that pushes their limits in search of what's stealing all their energy.

"I've tried to exercise my way out of this multiple times and I've put myself in deeper pits every time," said Ault, 36, of Paducah, Kentucky, as he began a nearly two-week stint at the research-only hospital outside the nation's capital. "Chronic fatigue is kind of like they took the stopper out of the energy reserve tank," and no amount of sleep replenishes it, he said. Up to 2.5 million Americans are estimated to have what is known officially as ME/CFS — it stands for "myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome." Its hallmark is profound fatigue, lasting more than six months, that's made even worse by any type of exertion. Among other symptoms, patients also tend to have difficulty staying upright or cognitive trouble often described as a "brain fog."

Many go undiagnosed, misdiagnosed or dismissed by skeptical doctors. Decades after it was first recognized, scientists don't know what causes it. There are no approved treatments, or even tests to help diagnosis — and no way to



In this Nov. 18, 2019 image from video, Zach Ault of Paducah, Ky., is connected to medical monitors during an exercise test at the National Institutes of Health's hospital in Bethesda, Md.

Associated Press

predict who will recover and who will have a severe case that leaves them debilitated, even bed-bound, for years.

"The ignorance about the condition just vastly dwarfs what we know about it," said Dr. Walter Koroshetz, director of NIH's National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke, which is leading the research.

The NIH has more than doubled funding — to more than \$14 million — for scientists around the country to unravel the biology of ME/CFS since 2015, when the influential Institute of Medicine decried "a paucity of research."

Part of the trouble is that varied symptoms make it hard to compare patients. A patient advocacy group called Solve ME/CFS Initiative is preparing to open a

registry where patients can send in medical information and blood and saliva samples to help scientists expand research.

And illustrating the desperation for answers, nearly 500 patients have called seeking to enroll in NIH's own study that is putting a few dozen under the microscope, with a barrage of sophisticated tests few hospitals can offer under one roof.

Like many such patients, Ault's disease struck following a run-of-the-mill infection in 2017. He'd been training for a half-marathon but after a little time off to recover, he tried to resume his runs and couldn't. His diagnosis came after months of tests for other explanations.

"His body had literally hijacked him and it wasn't

going to allow him to push through," said Anne Ault, his wife.

Ault, a father of three, was missing his kids' sporting and school activities, even his nightly wrestle with his young son. He had to cut back his job, in the ministry, to half-days. When 16 hours of sleep a day made no difference, his wife, a pharmacist, hunted research opportunities.

Ault fit the bill for the NIH study, which is focusing on people who came down with the disease after an infection, of any sort, within five years. That initial infection is long gone but maybe, the body's normal reactions to illness went into a destructive tailspin.

"You're really capturing the disease at a specific point in time," in its crucial early stages, said Sadie Whitaker, scientific director for the Solve ME/CFS Initiative. "No one has studied such a very specific population to such depth before."

There are some clues. Earlier studies have found brain inflammation in patients, and nervous system abnormalities that might explain why they feel worse upright than lying down. The

immune system seems to be on chronic alert. Then there's the energy drain. Just last month, Cornell University researchers reported that patients' key immune cells don't make energy properly.

The NIH study is looking for more clues. It starts with a week-plus hospitalization for blood and genetic tests, brain scans, a spinal tap, sleep tests, a check of gut bacteria. Scientists pore over the results before deciding who to invite back for a longer and more rigorous visit.

"Go as far as you can, work as hard as you can," NIH physical therapist Bart Drinkard told Ault as he climbed onto the exercise bike.

Cells, in particular little factories inside cells called mitochondria, use oxygen and nutrients to create energy. While Ault pedals, scientists can measure how his leg muscles use oxygen, and see if that's different than in a healthy person.

Afterward, doctors fit a special cap on Ault to track electrical activity in his brain, and then sent him to spend the night in an airtight chamber. Pipes draw out the room's air for analysis. How much oxygen is used and carbon dioxide is produced tells how much energy Ault is using, minute by minute.

"We can calculate every molecule. It's the cleanest air we have in the hospital," said NIH's Kong Chen, a metabolism specialist. "We're figuring out how his body adjusts to an exercise load, or a stress load."

Researchers are clear: The study doesn't offer any treatments, although the hope is to find targets to eventually develop some. But Ault says it did help to learn about the disease and tricks to conserve his energy and pace himself "so I can try to stay as healthy as possible without such bad consequences."

"It's hard not knowing if I'm going to recover, if or when," he said. Until research has an answer, he'll "hope for the best but live for right now." □

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## Pitt, Sandler and 'The Irishman' celebrated at NBR Awards

By Jake Coyle

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The National Board of Review toasted Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman" as the year's best film in an awards ceremony Wednesday night that included Brad Pitt crediting Bradley Cooper for his sobriety, Timothee Chalamet extolling the virtues of the Safdie brothers and best-actor winner Adam Sandler playfully taunting Robert De Niro with his award.

Coming on the heels of Sunday's Golden Globes and Tuesday's New York Film Critics Circle Awards, the National Board of Review assembled many of the regulars of this year's awards season in the annual, untelevised gala dinner at Cipriani's 42nd Street in midtown Manhattan. The quick succession of the ceremonies, which this year are especially compressed, can give the NBR Awards a discombobulating feeling of *deja vu*.

"What's so meaningful is that since Sunday, I've seen Scorsese, Tarantino and the Safdie brothers three days in a row and that will never happen again in my life," cheerfully joked Bong Joon Ho, the "Parasite" director, accepting his umpteenth award for best foreign language film.



**Benny Safdie, left, Adam Sandler and Josh Safdie attend the New York Film Critics Circle Awards at TAO Downtown on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, in New York.**

Associated Press

But because the NBR Awards (which earlier announced its winners) are a frothy but unsubstantial stop between honors, they can be memorable for their less-rehearsed, more expletive-ridden acceptance speeches and star-studded presenter-winner pairings. Bruce Springsteen passionately introduced the "icon award" winners, Scorsese, De Niro, and Al Pacino as "the fulfilled prophecy of a nation forged by immigrants." Uma Thurman, who

has a rich but painful history with Quentin Tarantino, introduced the "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" filmmaker as the most impactful person in her life, beside her parents and children. And Cooper presented Pitt with his best-supporting actor award.

"I got sober because of this guy," said Pitt taking the stage. "And every day has been happier ever since." Pitt, who like Bong is by now entrenched as an Oscar favorite, supplied some of the

night's best lines. Holding his trophy, he said he was pleased to be leaving "carrying something other than George Clooney." And, as he has throughout the acclaimed release of Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," Pitt exuded the relaxed charisma of a contented movie star.

"My goals in life are pretty simple right now: Be happy, stay healthy and not get into a financial situation where I have to do 'Ocean's 14,'" said Pitt

while the audience roared. "We'll see."

The awards belonged equally to Sandler, whose performance in Josh and Benny Safdie's "Uncut Gems" has been one of the most celebrated of his career. His praises were sung from the stage by the Safdies (best screenplay winners, with Ronald Bronstein), presenter Drew Barrymore and even best supporting actress winner Kathy Bates ("Richard Jewell").

Unlike some of the other winners, Bates hasn't been a mainstay on the awards circuit. The 71-year-old actress, a three-time Oscar nominee and winner in 1991 for "Misery," said she didn't know if this might be her last such honor. She took the moment to reflect on some of her fondest memories and to tenderly thank her long passed mother. Bates even recalled 1998's "Water Boy," in which she played Sandler's mother.

"Where's Sandler?" said Bates peering out from the stage. "Bobby Boucher! Congrats, son."

When Sandler's turn came, he got the stage and looked down at the nearby star of "The Irishman."

"I know De Niro's nervous around me now," Sandler joked. □

## Cardi B's pledge to seek Nigerian citizenship sparks rivalry

SAM OLUKOYA

**LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)** — Cardi B's announcement that she wants to seek Nigerian citizenship has set off a Twitter feud between her West African fans in friendly rivals Nigeria and Ghana.

The Grammy-winning rapper visited both countries last month on her African tour.

Her announcement in a tweet on Friday criticized the U.S. airstrike in Iraq that killed Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani and sent Middle East tensions soaring.

"It's sad this man is putting Americans live in danger. Dumbest move Trump did till date ... I'm filing for my Nigerian citizenship," she

tweeted.

Many in West Africa saw her tweet as proof that she preferred Nigeria

Ghanaians were quick to point out the pitfalls of living in Africa's most populous nation, where traffic jams and power cuts are more visible than opulent nightclubs and luxury hotels.

"Hope you have a generator to power your house (because) they don't have light but we do," one user tweeted, adding an emotion of a Ghana flag.

Some fans in Ghana expressed concern for her safety, warning about the Nigeria-based Islamic extremist group Boko Haram.

But most Nigerian fans were quick to offer up a passport



**In this Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2019 file photo, Singer Cardi B poses for photographers as she arrives for the Chanel Ready To Wear Spring-Summer 2020 collection in Paris, France.**

Associated Press

exchange, underscoring the mix of pride and confusion that the 27-year-old

star would prefer Nigeria to America.

This week she asked fans

to weigh in on whether her Nigerian name should be CHIOMA B or Cadijat.

Cardi B, who was born Belcalis Almanzar, is of Afro-Caribbean descent, tracing her roots to Trinidad and the Dominican Republic.

It was not immediately clear how the rapper might acquire citizenship in Nigeria, though a number of celebrities have recently been given honorary citizenship in other African countries.

British actor Idris Elba now has a passport from Sierra Leone, his late father's birthplace. And fellow rapper Ludacris recently acquired citizenship in Gabon after marrying a woman from the Central African nation. □



This image released by Twentieth Century Fox shows Kristen Stewart in a scene from "Underwater."

Associated Press

## Kristen Stewart can't save 'Underwater' from sinking

By **MARK KENNEDY**

Welcome to January, which, in terms of quality movies, is the worst, the lowest, the abyss. Actually, that's pretty accurate when it comes to the latest, straight-to-January release "Underwater," which steals from "The Abyss" and many other movies like "Alien" and even "Godzilla."

The filmmakers started with an overused thriller cliché — trapped workers far from home, often in space. This time they're deep under the waves. Then disaster strikes, forcing them out. Then a monster or two are added. Everyone making it hopes all the suckers (sorry, viewers) never saw "The Abyss," "The Rift," "Sphere," "The Rig" or half a dozen other films that plow the same field.

"Underwater" certainly isn't as bad as it could have been but it is leaking badly long before it reaches its limp conclusion, despite strong work by Kristen Stewart doing her best impression of Sigourney Weaver in "Aliens." Following a mercifully short scene-setting sequence, Stewart and a ragtag group of deep-sea miners find themselves the only survivors among an original 316-person crew

when an earthquake rocks their sprawling underwater station 7 miles below the Pacific Ocean.

The pressure down there is 8 tons per square inch and its firmly pressing down on Stewart to save this film. Along for the harrowing ride is Vincent Cassel as the rig captain, Jessica Henwick as a marine biology researcher and two tech guys played by John Gallagher Jr. and T.J. Miller. The role Miller has assumed is also the wiseguy jokester, but he manages to land not a single funny line.

You know the drill here: Don't get too close to any of these characters. Not all are going to make it. They have to move fast in knee-deep water through tunnels and across the ocean floor with fast-depleting oxygen. Oh, by the way, the drilling seems to have awoken mysterious sea beasts. Director William Eubank keeps the action taut and the look of the film is realistically impressive and dark, with grimy, dirty workers donning cool dive suits that make them each look like Transformers. His camera often goes tight on the shocked faces inside the helmets. Stewart, in particular, shines with a combi-

nation of steely nerves and harrowing expressions. She also spends a suspiciously large amount of time in her underwear.

Alas, the pretty cool special effects break down when it comes to the monsters, which resemble Swamp Things bred with Olive Garden calamari. When they are just glimpses, they're terrifying. The filmmakers should have left them in shadows. The screenplay by Brian Duffield and Adam Cozad does try to reach for depth in this disaster-monster hybrid by wondering if humans messing with Mother Nature is the cause of such misery. "We did this!" the marine biology researcher screams. "We took too much! We're not supposed to be down here!" But that's as deep (sorry) as the filmmakers go. Stewart begins the film in a melancholic mood — "There's a comfort to cynicism. There's a lot less to lose," she wonders — and ends her odyssey triumphant, hopeful and certain. But she missed all those emergency computer announcements along the way that warned her film was in trouble: "Structural failure imminent! Structural failure imminent!" □

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UNDERWATER

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:20  
FRI 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35  
SAT 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35  
SUN 3:50 | 6:05 | 8:20 | 10:35

PBP MON-FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35  
SAT-SUN 12:55 | 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

Like a Boss

PH MON-THU 6:05 | 8:10  
FRI 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15  
SAT 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10 | 10:15  
SUN 1:55 | 4:00 | 6:05 | 8:10

PBP MON-FRI 5:20 | 7:20 | 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 3:20 | 5:20 | 7:20 | 9:20

THE GRUDGE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-SUN 7:20 | 9:30

RICHARD JEWELL

1 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATION

PH MON-SUN 9:05

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PH MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:40  
SAT-SUN 3:05 | 5:50 | 8:40

PBP MON-FRI 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20  
SAT-SUN 1:20 | 4:00 | 6:40 | 9:20

PH MON-THU 5:40 | 8:20  
FRI 5:40 | 8:20 | 11:00  
SAT 3:00 | 5:40 | 8:20 | 11:00  
SUN 3:00 | 5:40 | 8:20

SPIES IN DISGUISE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-FRI 4:35 | 6:50  
SAT-SUN 2:20 | 4:35 | 6:50

PBP MON-FRI 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00  
SAT-SUN 2:00 | 4:20 | 6:40 | 9:00

Disney FROZEN II

2 GOLDEN GLOBE® NOMINATIONS

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PBP MON-FRI 5:00  
SAT-SUN 2:40 | 5:00

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SAT-SUN 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00

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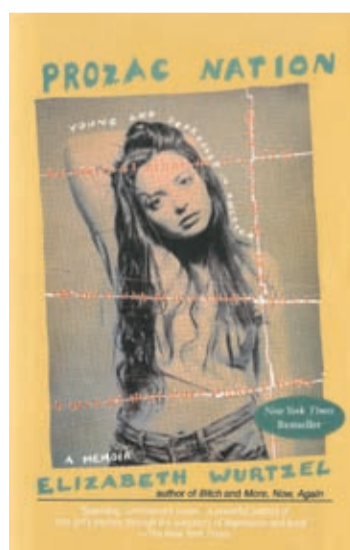
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## 'Prozac Nation' author Elizabeth Wurtzel dies at age 52



This undated photo provided by Penguin Random House shows the book cover of Elizabeth Wurtzel's memoir, "Prozac Nation."

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Elizabeth Wurtzel, whose blunt and painful confessions of her struggles with addiction and depression in the best-selling "Prozac Nation" made her a voice and a target for an anxious generation, died Tuesday at age 52. Wurtzel's husband, Jim Freed, told The Associated Press that she died at a Manhattan hospital after a long battle with cancer. "Prozac Nation" was published in 1994 when Wurtzel was in her mid-20s and set off a debate that lasted for much of her life. Critics praised her for her candor and accused her of self-pity and self-indulgence, vices

she fully acknowledged. Wurtzel wrote of growing up in a home torn by divorce, of cutting herself when she was in her early teens, and of spending her adolescence in a storm of tears, drugs, bad love affairs and family fights. "I don't mean to sound like a spoiled brat," she wrote. "I know that into every sunny life a little rain must fall and all that, but in my case the crisis-level hysteria is an all-too-recurring theme." Wurtzel became a celebrity, a symbol and, for some, a punchline. Newsweek called her "the famously depressed Elizabeth Wurtzel." □

# Uproar in UK over Harry and Meghan's step back from royals

By DANICA KIRKA

Britain's royal family scrambled Thursday to contain the fallout from the surprise announcement by Prince Harry and Meghan that they plan "to step back" from royal duties, a shift that ignited media outrage and public unease in the U.K.

The couple's declaration that they planned to forge a "progressive" new path for royals in the modern world clearly upset senior royals — who apparently weren't told of the decision in advance.

Britain's media didn't like it either, lambasting the Duke and Duchess of Sussex in articles, columns and editorials Thursday that expressed everything from disappointment to fury.

The Daily Mirror said in an editorial that the couple's failure to tell Harry's grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, about their plans "shows shocking disregard for a woman whose entire life has been ruled by a sense of public duty and honor." The Times of London accused Harry of "petulance and hot-headedness," while the Daily Mail said the couple wanted "the status of being 'senior' royals but the privacy and freedom of being private citizens." The Sun and the New York Post described the departure as "Megxit," a play on Brexit, Britain's impending departure this month from the European Union. The New York Post, a Rupert Murdoch paper, featured a cover cartoon drawing of the couple's alleged future: the duchess in curlers holding a cigarette while Harry in a stained T-shirt cradled a beer in front of a television.

Harry, 35, is Elizabeth's grandson and sixth in line to the British throne, behind his father, brother and his brother's three children. With his ginger hair and beard, he is one of the royal family's most recognizable and popular members and has spent his entire life in the public eye.

Before marrying the prince in a royal wedding watched around the



In this Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 file photo, Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex attend the 91st Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey in London.

Associated Press

world in 2018, the 38-year-old Duchess of Sussex was American actress Meghan Markle, star of the TV legal drama "Suits." The couple's first child, Archie, was born in May 2019.

The uproar began Wednesday with a statement from Buckingham Palace, described as "a personal message from the Duke and Duchess of Sussex." It said Harry and Meghan intend to become financially independent and to "balance" their time between the U.K. and North America.

"After many months of reflection and internal discussions, we have chosen to make a transition this year in starting to carve out a progressive new role within this institution," the statement said. "We intend to step back as 'senior' members of the royal family and work to become financially independent, while continuing to fully support her majesty the queen."

Hours after Harry and Meghan's announcement, though, a difference of opinion was laid bare. Buckingham Palace issued a second statement, saying many issues still had to be worked out before the couple's plan could be realized and discussions with the couple "were at an early stage."

That communicate hinted

that Harry and Meghan's statement had caught the royal household by surprise. "We understand their desire to take a different approach, but these are complicated issues that will take time to work through," it read.

The message about their future plans was also posted on the couple's official Instagram page and referred readers to their website for information. But the statement and launching of the website was apparently not cleared with senior royals or their advisers.

It was not known exactly where in North America the couple planned to spend some of their time. Meghan grew up in Los Angeles and lived in Toronto while filming "Suits."

Harry and his family skipped the queen's traditional Christmas gathering at her Sandringham estate last month to spend the holidays on Vancouver Island off the west coast of Canada and see Markle's mother Doria, who lives in California.

The royal pair described their new roles on their new website. The site noted that the Sovereign Grant, which funds the monarchy, covers just 5% of the costs for the duke and duchess and is used for their official office expenses. They said

they want to cut this financial tie.

The couple also announced a new media relations policy "to ensure diverse and open access to their work." The policy includes them opting out of a pool system that guarantees media coverage of royal events to Britain's media. "Under this system, the rota, or pool, gives these British media representatives the opportunity to exclusively cover an event, on the understanding that they will share factual material obtained with other members of their sector who request it," the website said. "The current system predates the dramatic transformation of news reporting in the digital age."

As an actress and a human rights activist, the duchess was accustomed to media attention before her marriage, but she has made no secret of the fact that the transition to being a global celebrity and part of Britain's royal family was difficult. The royal couple particularly took issue with their treatment at the hands of the British tabloids, whose aggressive coverage of all things royal is legendary. The royal couple revealed their struggles with the media during an ITV documentary "Harry & Meghan: An African Journey," which

followed them on a recent tour of Southern Africa. Both said they had struggled with the spotlight, particularly because they say much of what is printed is untrue. The duchess told ITV last year that her British friends warned her not to marry the prince because of the intense media scrutiny that would follow in his country. But the U.S. television star said she "naively" dismissed the warnings, because as an American she didn't understand how the British press worked.

"I never thought this would be easy, but I thought it would be fair," she said. "And that is the part that is hard to reconcile."

The announcement left a slew of questions in its wake, including whether the couple should repay taxpayer funds used on their home, Frogmore Cottage in Windsor. Taxpayers paid 2.4 million pounds to renovate the Grade-2 listed building. Simon Webb, 73, of King's Lynn in eastern England, said the couple should pay the money back if they are stepping back from royal duties.

"I don't think they can keep dipping in and out as it suits them, because that's what they seem to do," he said. The royal family will also be watching to see how the public reacts to the news. Many royal watchers on Thursday offered sympathy for the queen.

"We don't mind them having an ordinary life. What we don't like is the queen not being informed about nothing," said royal fan John Loughrey, adding that the British public did not want to see the royal couple "isolated" abroad.

"It is a crisis," he said. "We have got a crisis here. Seriously." □



# 'Looks like a movie!' Traveling back in time to Tombstone

By PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

TOMBSTONE, Ariz. (AP) —

"Bang!" "Bang!" "Bang!"

And several more "bangs!" — the gunshots in this reenacted shootout happened so quickly I couldn't keep count.

"That was it," said the actor playing lawman Doc Holliday at the OK Corral's several-times-a-day show about what may be the most famous gun battle in the Old West. "Over before it even started."

Newcomers to Arizona, I had brought my wife and young children to Tombstone, about a three-hour drive southeast of Phoenix, to learn some of the state's history. I figured cowboys and gun battles would be more interesting to my 8- and 9-year-old boys than museums.

But the shootout was over so quickly I couldn't help but ask myself: "Why is this a big deal?"

There are numerous movies and books about this event, and the name "Tombstone" may be one of the most recognizable in the world. But only three people were killed in the 1881 shootout, which seems quaint in today's world of mass shootings. And when you see the reenactment, you couldn't be blamed for thinking back on those old movies, with their drawn-out gun battles and dashing horses, and concluding they were a lot of cow dung.

A quick recap of the basic conflict: A group of armed outlaws, called cowboys,



Actors are seen reenacting the events that led to an 1881 shootout in the town that left three dead and became one of the most famous gun battles in the Old West on Saturday, Nov. 20, 2019 in Tombstone, Ariz.

shoot it out with the town marshal and a handful of other policemen, culminating a feud that was part personal, part legal, and spoke to the future of a town.

Tim Christie, the actor playing Holliday, said much of the intrigue comes from digging into the characters and realizing there were no good guys.

"They were all bad guys. Everybody had an agenda," said Christie, who is also the show manager and director.

Tombstone today is a mix of authenticity and tourism with a heavy dose of cheese. Besides the OK Corral show, there are oth-

er reenacted shootouts in the streets. In the old part of town, the storefronts and dirt streets look like they did when the town was founded and flourished in the late 19th century.

"This all looks like a movie!" said my 9-year-old as women in long, full dresses and men with cowboy hats and spurs waddled past us.

Shops sell leather boots, lassos and toy guns. Children "pan for silver" with bags of dirt mixed with shiny rocks. Large and colorful carriages whiz by, and there are several saloons to explore along with "cribs," where prostitutes lived and worked.

Jeremy Johnston, historian for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, in Cody, Wyoming, said the glamorization of the town and shootout began in the 1930s after Stuart Lake published "Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal," a largely fictional biography that cast Earp as a courageous lawman. That led to several movies and television series in the decades to come.

Johnston said the shootout was big news locally at the time, but there were so many other conflicts in the area — Apache Indian wars, mining disputes, vio-

lent strikes — that it would have been one of many things.

The gun battle in Tombstone did not actually happen at the OK Corral, but in front of C.S. Fly's Photographic Studio on Fremont Street, several doors down from the corral's back entrance.

Popular culture has turned the shooting into "a story of good, solid citizens standing up to ruffians to build a good community," Johnston said, adding that it "ignores many nuances." Dusty Escapule, Tombstone's mayor and a fourth-generation resident, said

the town is working to add attractions beyond the gun-slinging.

"The gunfights won't be interesting to younger generations," he said, adding that he has seen parents pull their kids away when a reenactment shootout begins because they don't want them to see it.

Escapule pointed to the town's mining exhibits, stagecoach rides and nightly ghost tours as examples of non-gun activities.

That isn't to say the town of 1,290 residents is moving away from its gun history. In some ways, it is further embracing it. In 2017, Escapule signed a proclamation declaring Tombstone "America's Second Amendment City." The measure was purely symbolic, as Arizona allows residents, and even visitors from other states, to carry concealed weapons.

"I wanted people to know we believe in the rights of citizens to bear arms," said Escapule.

Ironically, one of the central disputes that led to the famous shootout was the contention by the lawmen that others, i.e. the cowboys, should not be able to carry weapons in town. Today, many shops have signs on the door saying, "No Guns Allowed Inside" (private businesses in Arizona can prohibit weapons on their premises).

One attraction that gives visitors a broad view of the town is Tombstone's "historama," shown at the OK Corral. □

Associated Press



A horse-driven carriage is seen going through Tombstone, Ariz., on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019.

Associated Press



Reprinted editions of The Tombstone Epitaph are seen in Tombstone, Ariz., on Saturday, Nov. 30, 2019.

Associated Press